NATION

SC questions trucks' entry into ailing Delhi

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BUSINESS

Sensex back at 79K level, Nifty surges 557 points

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SPORTS

Satwik-Chirag enter semifinals, Lakshya loses

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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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False: Canada denies report linking PM to Nijjar killing

A report citing Canada official claims Modi knew about plot

OTTAWA, 22 NOV

Canadian government dismissed a media report linking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to criminal activities in Canada, including the alleged plot to kill Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, terming it as "speculative and inaccurate".

The denial made by Nathalie G Drouin, National Security and Intelligence Advisor to Canadian Prime Minister, on Thursday came a day after India strongly trashed the report as "smear campaign".

Quoting an unnamed senior national security official, The Globe and Mail newspaper on Tuesday reported that Canadian security agencies believe Modi knew about the killing of Nijjar and other violent plots.

The official said Canadian and American intelligence tied the assassination operations to Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah. Also in the loop, the official said, was Doval and Jaishankar.

In a press conference on 14 October, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Mike Duheme warned of widespread violence, homicides and a public security threat linked to "agents" of the Indian government.

Hours after Duheme's conference, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters, "I believe that India has made a monumental mistake by choosing to use their diplomats and organised crime to attack Canadians, to make them feel unsafe here at (their) home, and even more, to create acts of violence and even murder. It's unacceptable."

On 26 October, Canadian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison alleged that Indian Home Minister Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligence-gathering targeting Sikh separatists inside Canada. In New Delhi on Wednesday, referring to the The Globe and Mail report, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said such "ludicrous statements" should be dismissed with the contempt they deserve and "smear campaigns like this only further damage our already strained ties". India-Canada ties remain deeply troubled over Canada's alleged support to Khalistani separatists and its accusation of India's involvement in the killing of Nijjar. —*PTI*

India-Canada ties remain deeply troubled over Canada's alleged support to Khalistani separatists **PHOTO: PTI**

Canada rolls back fliers' extra screening

Canada rolled back its standard operating procedures for extra screening of travellers flying to India, days after the move was implemented "out of abundance of caution". The revised measures, that come amid souring ties between India and Canada, mandating that travellers to India will not be subject to extra screening. Canada's Transport Minister Anita Anand on Monday, had earlier said that the "temporary additional security screening measures" may cause passengers some delays. —*Agencies*

FRIENDS INDEED

Indo-US ties strong: WH says will navigate Adani 'bribe'gate

WASHINGTON, 22 NOV

Asserting that the relationship between India and the US is built on a strong foundation, the White House has expressed confidence that it can navigate the ongoing crisis surrounding bribery charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Thursday that the administration is aware of the charges against Adani.

Adani has been charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay over USD 250 million (about Rs 2,100 crore) bribe to Indian officials for favourable terms for solar power contracts.

"Obviously, we're aware of these allegations, and I would have to refer you to the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) and DOJ (Department of Justice) about the specifics of those allegations against the Adani Group," she said. "What I will say is on the US and India relationship, we believe that it stands on an extremely strong foundation anchored in ties between our people and cooperation across global issues," Jean-Pierre said. "We're confident that we'll continue to navigate this issue as we have with other issues that may have come up. And so the specifics of this, this is something that the SEC and DOJ can speak to directly, but again, we believe that…this relationship between India and the US has been built on a strong foundation," she said. —*PTI*

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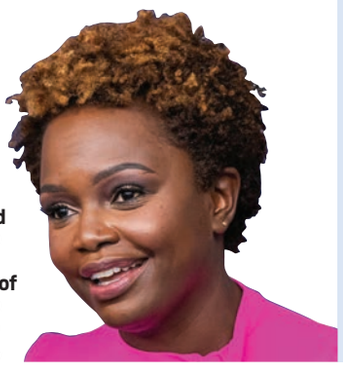
PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Obviously, we're aware of these allegations, and I would have to refer you to the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) and DOJ (Department of Justice) about the specifics of those allegations against the Adani Group

—Karine Jean-Pierre, WH Press Secretary



Bourses seek Adani Group clarification

Stock exchanges have sought clarification on violation of disclosure norms by Adani Group entities regarding the alleged bribery case in the US and subsequent cancellation of Kenya's airport expansion deal. Adani Group firms on Thursday had said "there are no allegations made against the company". The group is yet to respond to the bourses on clarification with regard to Kenya cancelling airport expansion. While there was no word from Sebi officials, experts pointed out the regulator will have to definitely look into it if there are any disclosure violations. —*PTI*

Septuagenarian rapes minor girl in Dakshina Kannada

MANGALURU, 22 NOV

A 70-year-old man was arrested for raping a three-year-old girl in Balepuni, located in the Ullal taluk of Dakshina Kannada on Friday. On Thursday, while playing near an areca nut shop, the girl alleged that the shopkeeper, identified as Abdulla, had made inappropriate physical contact with her. Concerned about her daughter's discomfort, the mother sought medical attention, police said. —*PTI*

2 fishers missing as Navy sub collides with boats

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

A fishing vessel collided with a submarine of the Indian Navy about 70 nautical miles off Goa coast and a massive rescue operation is underway to trace two missing crew members of the vessel, officials said on Friday. The incident happened on Thursday. The fishing vessel, Marthoma, had 13 crew members and 11 of them were rescued in the search operation, the Navy said. The Navy deployed six ships and an unknown number of surveillance aircraft in the rescue mission. —*PTI*

UP to axe 1.12 lakh trees on Kanwar Yatra route

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The UP government's environment department has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that over 1.12 lakh trees will be felled in the state's protected forest area to make way for the upcoming Kanwar Yatra route. The area in question spreads across three forest divisions of Ghaziabad, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar for the proposed route between Muradnagar in Ghaziabad and Purkaji in Muzaffarnagar. —*PTI*

CAPTAIN BUMRAH SPARKS INDIA TO LIFE IN PERTH

Day 1 of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy was expected to be a contest between two out-of-form batting units, but it quickly turned into an exciting showdown as the bowling attacks from both India and Australia lived up to their reputations, adding an extra layer of thrill to the match. Here's everything you need to know about the action as India won the toss and chose to bat

TOTAL SCORE:
India: 150/10
Australia: 67/7
(Trails by 83 runs)

Debutant Nitish Reddy scores	Rishabh Pant hits
41 RUNS	37 RUNS

AUSSIES CRIPPLE INDIA

1.	John Hazelwood	4/29
2.	Mitchell Marsh	2/12
3.	Mitchell Stark	2/14
4.	Pat Cummin	0/23

Australia's bowling quartet of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, and Nathan Lyon made history by becoming the first bowling unit to collectively take 500 Test wickets.

INDIA STRIKES BACK

1.	Jasprit Bumrah	4/17
2.	Mohammed Siraj	2/17
3.	Harshit Rana	1/33

17 WICKETS fell on Day 1, which is the 1st time in seven decades for a Test match on Australian soil.

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M'rashtra, J'khand poll results today

MUMBAI, 22 NOV

The votes for the high-stakes Maharashtra Assembly election results will be counted tomorrow. The counting of votes for the high stake bypolls to three Assembly segments in Karnataka, which witnessed a fierce fight between the ruling Congress and a combative BJP-JD(S) alliance, will take place on Saturday.

The ruling Mahayuti alliance of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, BJP and Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar camp) is tied in a contest with Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, comprising the Congress and the breakaway faction of the Sena and NCP. However, it was a tense Friday in the state amid allegations of horsetrading made by the Opposition. MVA decided to house all its newly-elected MLAs together in Mumbai after the Maharashtra election results, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said, a move aimed at preventing poaching ahead of government formation.

Incidentally, fissures have emerged within the opposition MVA as well as the ruling Mahayuti on who will head the next government with constituents in both camps laying claim over the chief minister's post.

The stage is also set for the "battle of ballots" in Jharkhand as BJP-led NDA and the JMM-led alliance anxiously wait for the results. The state witnessed a fierce electoral battle between ruling JMM-led INDIA bloc and the BJP-led NDA. Counting of postal ballots will start at 8 am. Results will also be announced for 46 Assembly bypoll seats in 13 states. —*PTI*

>>>More on Pages 2 & 3

PHOTO: X

Centre releases grant for State rural local bodies

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The Centre has released the first instalment of the 15th Finance Commission grants for FY 2024–25 to the rural local bodies (RLBs) in Karnataka, the Union Panchayati Raj Ministry said in a statement.

The funds are meant for all the 5,949 eligible gram panchayats in the state, it added.

"The Government of India through the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Jal Shakti recommends the release of XV-FC grants to the Rural Local Bodies which are then released by the Ministry of Finance. The allocated grants are recommended and released in two instalments in a financial year," the statement said.

The grants will be used by the RLBs for location-specific requirements under the 29 subjects enshrined in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution, except for salaries and other establishment costs, it said. —*PTI*

AHEAD OF POLLS, AAP PROMISES FREE POWER, TRAVEL

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

With an eye on the Assembly elections scheduled in Delhi early next year, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Friday launched a 'Revdi Par Charcha' campaign that will run from 25 November to 10 December, an official statement said.

He annouced six free facilities ('revdis') that will be provided to Delhi if AAP wins again.

They promises are free electricity, water, education, treatment at mohalla clinics, bus travel for women, pilgrimage scheme for the elderly, monthly Rs 1,000 assistance for women and protection of these benefits from potential interference by BJP. —*PTI*

AS ALLIES BACK RUSSIA

WW3 has begun: Ukraine official

KYIV, 22 NOV

A former Ukrainian military commander, General Volodymyr Havrylov, declared that World War III has officially begun due to Russia's growing alliance with countries like North Korea, Iran, and China.

These nations have reportedly backed Russia in the ongoing conflict with Ukraine. Havrylov emphasized the global dimension of the war, arguing that the involvement of these global powers marks a dangerous escalation. He warned that the situation could lead to further international complications, reshaping global political and military alliances in unprecedented ways.

He noted the involvement of North Korean soldiers, the use of Iranian drones deliberately targeting civilians, and the flow of North Korean and Chinese weapons into the conflict as clear indications of the war's broader international scope.

In retaliation for Ukraine's use of US and British missiles this week, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the launch of a new intermediate-range ballistic missile, the Oreshnik. In a televised address, Putin claimed the missile flies at ten times the speed of sound and can evade US air defense systems. He also stated it could target any Ukrainian ally whose weapons are used against Russia. This escalation comes amid heightened tensions between Russia and Ukraine, fueled by increasing military aid from Western nations.

Meanwhile, Russia is estimated to have supplied North Korea with more than a million barrels of oil since March this year, according to satellite imagery analysis from the Open Source Centre, a non-profit research group based in the UK.

The oil is payment for the weapons and troops Pyongyang has sent Moscow to fuel its war in Ukraine, leading experts and UK Foreign Secretary, David Lammy said. —*Agencies*

Volodymyr Havrylov **PHOTO: X**

SIBLINGS FOUND STRANGLED TO DEATH IN B'LURU

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Two minor siblings were found dead under mysterious circumstances at their residence here on Thursday in a case of murder, police said on Friday.

Shubham, 7, and Siya, 3, were allegedly strangled to death with a rope, police said. The children's father, Sunil Kumar Sahoo, has accused his wife, Mamata, of "killing the children due to a marital dispute".

Sahoo, aN auto driver from Jharkhand, found his children's bodies when he returned home in Subramanyapura around 9.30 pm on Thursday. He rushed his children and wife, who sustained a minor neck injury, to the hospital.

However, Mamata denied any involvement, and police said she was at home during the incident. —*PTI*

10 Maoists shot dead in Chhattisgarh encounter

SUKMA, 22 NOV

Security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Friday killed 10 Maoists, including three women, a senior police official said. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the security forces and said the era of peace and progress has returned to the Bastar region.

The gunfight broke out in the morning in a forest near Bhandarpadar village under the jurisdiction of the Bhejji police station, where a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, said Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P.

The police officer said personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched the operation. The forces had received inputs about the presence of Maoists from the Konta and Kistaram area committees on forested hills of Korajguda, Dantespuram, Nagaram and Bhandarpadar villages.

"Bodies of 10 Naxalites, including three women, have been recovered from the spot," Sundarraj said.

The forces recovered 12 weapons, including an INSAS rifle, an AK-47 rifle, a self-loading rifle and Barrel Grenade Launchers, he said.

Two of the deceased have been identified as Madkam Masa, 42, a divisional committee member and military in-charge of the south Bastar division of Maoists, and Lakhma Madvi, an area committee member, Sundarraj said. They were carrying a bounty of Rs 8 lakh and Rs 5 lakh, respectively, he added. —*PTI*

Woman accused ends life, alleges harassment

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

A 33 year-old woman who is an accused in a case died by suicide on Friday in Banashankari area here, police said. According to a senior police officer, the woman was an accused in a case being investigated by CID. In her purported suicide note, she alleged harassment by the investigating officer. She died by hanging. A case of abetment to suicide has been registered in Banashankari police station. —*Salar News*

KMF's Nandini to introduce idli, dosa batter soon in City

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is set to introduce idli and dosa batter under its Nandini brand in Bengaluru. The whey-based idli and dosa batter will be available in 450g and 900g packs, sources said. Speaking to Salar News on Friday, KMF Managing Director MK Jagadish said they are ready to launch the product and are awaiting a date from the Chief Minister. "The product will be launched soon with a competitive pricing. But it will be lower than our competitors," Jagadish said —*Salar News*

3-day banana fair begins in Mysuru

MYSURU, 22 NOV

Farmers need to be encouraged to grow food crops like bananas as large tracts of agricultural land are occupied by commercial crops like tobacco, hybrid maize, said Sandalwood film director Sumana Kittur on Friday. The director of 'Kiragoorina Gayyaligalu' film inaugurated a three-day banana fair organised by Sahaja Samrudha and Akshayakalpa Organics in Mysuru. Deputy Director of Horticulture Manjunath Angadi said the district has extensive banana cultivation and the fair opens up new possibilities for value addition and marketing of bananas.Farmers such as Vinod Nair from Kerala, Prasad Krishna Hegde from Sirsi, and Senthil Kumar from Tamil Nadu were felicitated for their contributions to preserving banana varieties. The fair showcases over 150 banana varieties, with Nair presenting 120 types from Kerala, including rare varieties like Pooja Kadali, Mattu, Blue Java, Motta Poovan, Sahasra Poovan, and Chammatti. Prasad Rama Hegde from Sirsi brought rare bananas and canes, with the 16-foot-tall Sahasra variety drawing attention. Banana-based foods were also kept on sale. —*Salar News*

Honeytrap gang extorts Rs 2.3cr from techie, held

BENGALURU 22 NOV

Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested four individuals, including a woman, for allegedly running a honey trap racket to extort money from a software engineer in the city. The arrested suspects are Anand, Abhishek, Tabassum, and Azeem. According to the victim's complaint, the woman initially met him at a gym in RT Nagar in 2021, and the two developed a friendship. She later claimed to have adopted a child and began asking for financial assistance from him. Over time, the woman started blackmailing the techie by sending morphed images of him via WhatsApp. Her associates, posing as lawyers, threatened to have him arrested on charges of sexual harassment unless he paid them.B The gang is believed to have extorted over Rs 2.25 crore from the victim. Unable to bear the ongoing harassment, the techie eventually sought help from the police —*Salar News*

Bypoll results key for ruling & Oppn camps

Three byelection outcomes to be out today

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

The counting of votes for the high stake bypolls to three Assembly segments in Karnataka, which witnessed a fierce fight between the ruling Congress and a combative BJP-JD(S) alliance, will take place on Saturday.

Byelection to Sandur, Shiggaon and Channapatna Assembly segments were held on 13 November and the outcome is crucial for either camps.

A Congress show will be seen as an endorsement of both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar while BJP's good show would mean the silencing of its State President BY Vijayendra's critics within the saffron organisation fold.

For JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy, it will be a battle of prestige as his son Nikhil is testing his electoral fortunes from Channapatna after tasting defeats in earlier contests. Kumaraswamy had vacated the seat after being elected to the Lok Sabha in this year's elections.

The counting of votes will begin at 8am in three centres (one each in three segments) and poll officials expect a clear picture about the outcome to emerge by mid-day.

The bypolls to Sandur, Shiggaon and Channapatna were necessitated as the seats fell vacant following the election of their respective representatives — E Tukaram of Congress, former CM Basavaraj Bommai of BJP and Union Minister Kumaraswamy to Lok Sabha in May elections.

Byelections to Sandur, Shiggaon and Channapatna Assembly segments were held on 13 November **PHOTO: PTI**

> A Congress show will be seen as an endorsement of both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar while BJP's good show would mean the silencing of its State President BY Vijayendra's critics within the saffron organisation fold.

Channapatna saw the highest number of 31 candidates, followed by Shiggaon (8) and Sandur (6). While Channapatna had recorded a voter turnout of 88.81 per cent, it was 80.72 per cent and 76.24 per cent, respectively in Shiggaon and Sandur, respectively.

The bypolls witnessed a straight fight between the ruling Congress and BJP in Sandur and Shiggaon segments, while in Channapatna, JD(S) which is part of the NDA alliance took on the grand old party.

Among the three segments, Channapatna was considered to be a "high profile" battle, where the contest was between CP Yogeeshwara and actor-turned-politician Nikhil.

In Shiggaon, BJP's Bharath Bommai, son of Basavaraj Bommai was in contest against Congress' Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan, who had faced defeat against the former Chief Minister in the 2023 Assembly polls.

In Sandur, Ballari MP Tukaram's wife E Annapurna of Congress contested from the seat vacated by her husband, against BJP ST Morcha president Bangaru Hanumanthu, who is considered close to party leader and former mining barron G Janardhan Reddy. —*PTI*

A meeting between office bearers of All India Muslim Personal Law Board and Muslim political leaders was held in Bengaluru on Friday. AIMPLB President Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, ex-deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha K Rahman Khan, Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan & AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan attended the meeting **PHOTO: SALAR**

YATNAL WAQF CAMPAIGN

BJP leaders to meet Nadda

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Seventeen former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs have convened a meeting at the Sadashivnagar residence of former minister Katta Subramanya Naidu in Bengaluru. They demanded that dissident leaders within the party be instructed not to conduct a public awareness campaign on the Waqf Bill amendments under the leadership of MLA Basanagowda Patil Yatnal. Instead, they urged support for the leadership of the party's State President, BY Vijayendra.

The leaders also decided to meet party President JP Nadda and BL Santhosh to convey their concerns and request intervention to stop the dissident leaders.

MLA Yatnal had earlier proposed a public awareness campaign regarding amendments to the Waqf Bill. However, several party leaders objected, urging Yatnal and others to refrain from organising an independent event.

"Basanagowda Patil Yatnal should not be allowed to conduct any campaign for any reason. It has been decided that party workers should be convinced about this, and the leadership should ensure Yatnal and his team are not allowed to bypass Vijayendra," former minister MP Renukacharya, who attended the meeting, said. "The State President will lead the struggle and any protest--it is a tradition," he added. He warned that the proposed campaigns might send the wrong message to party activists. —*ANI*

BJP workers protest over Waqf land issue, in Bengaluru on Friday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

BJP STEPS UP PROTEST AGAINST CONGRESS GOVERNMENT

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

The Opposition BJP on Friday intensified its protests against Congress government in Karnataka over Waqf land issue, holding agitations across State. On Thursday, the party held protests in Kalaburagi, Ballari, Haveri, Shivamogga, Udupi, and other places alleging encroachments by the Waqf board in the State. In Bengaluru, the protest was led by Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka on Friday. He was joined by party MLC CT Ravi, Member of Parliament PC Mohan among several other leaders. The demonstrations were held under the slogan 'Namma Bhoomi Namma Hakku' (Our land, Our Right). BJP president BY Vijayendra on Friday launched a blistering attack on the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government, accusing it of issuing controversial Waqf land notices to farmers and discontinuing central schemes to fund its guarantees. —*PTI*

COVID COMMITTEE

Joshi apologises for remarks on Justice D'Cunha panel

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi on Monday wrote to Justice Michael D'Cunha, expressing regret and apologising for his comments regarding D'Cunha Commission.

The commission, tasked with investigating alleged irregularities during Covid-19 pandemic, had submitted an interim report recommending action against former chief minister BS Yediyurappa and ex-minister B Sriramulu.

During an election rally in Shiggaon, Joshi lashed out at Justice D'Cunha, accusing him of acting as an "agent".

Joshi said in his letter that his comments were not intended to defame Justice D'Cunha or the commission. "...The statements made by me were only and only in the context of the procedure adopted by the commission in not affording an opportunity to the people allegedly indicted. It was neither calculated nor designed to bring either you or the commission under any disrepute or to lower your image in the minds of the right-thinking people of the society.

"At a personal level I must state that if the statements made by me unintendedly have caused any hurt or misgivings to you I do regret the same and place my sincere apology," he said.

Joshi also expressed hope that the letter would peacefully resolve the issue. —*ANI*

Congress protests against PM Narendra Modi, alleging he is supporting Gautam Adani, in Bengaluru on Friday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Nation knows who is protecting Adani: CM

MYSURU, 22 NOV

Lashing out at BJP, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said the nation knows who is protecting industrialist Gautam Adani against whom an arrest warrant has been issued by a US court. "Why aren't the media showing this truth to the people?" he asked in Mysuru, adding the industrialist should be arrested immediately.

The Chief Minister said Union government has meted out injustice to the farmers in Karnataka by reducing the loan amount given by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Siddaramaiah also attacked JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda, and his son Union minister HD Kumaraswamy without stating their name, saying what the son of the soil is doing when there is injustice done to farmers by NABARD.

He also slammed BJP for misleading people over the cancellation of BPL cards of income-tax payers and government employees. —*Salar News*

SIDDARAMAIAH WILL COMPLETE 5 YEARS AS CM: HM

MYSURU, 22 NOV

Congress-led State government is stable and Siddaramaiah will complete his full five-year term as Chief Minister, Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Friday.

Parameshwara said he will not become Chief Minister of the State as the post is not vacant now.

About the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle, the minister said the party high command has sought the progress reports from all ministers of Congress government in State. Parameshwara said he too has given his report to the party high command and the latter will decide on issues like cabinet reshuffle.

Parameshwara said Congress would secure victories in the bypolls in Karnataka and also in Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. —*Salar News*

HC denies bail to Prajwal in sexual harassment case

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

High Court on Friday dismissed the anticipatory bail application filed by former JD (S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing allegations of rape and sexual assault, in connection with a fourth case registered against him.

The fourth case was registered against Prajwal, accusing him of sexual harassment, on 12 June at cybercrime police station of CID in Bengaluru.

In this case he has been booked for sexual harassment, stalking and criminal intimidation, and violation of privacy of IT Act. The complainant is a woman, who was allegedly sexually harassed over a video call. —*PTI*

AI WILL SET UP AIRCRAFT TRAINING CENTRE IN CITY

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Air India on Friday said it is setting up a Basic Maintenance Training Organisation (BMTO), which will offer an integrated 2+2 years Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) programme certified by Indian aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Air India has signed an agreement with Bengaluru Airport City Limited, a subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited, to develop a build-to-suit facility for the AME programme that will feature modern classrooms, laboratories for practical training and a team of qualified trainers. The campus, spread over 86,000 square feet at Bengaluru Airport City, is expected to be operational by mid-2026. —*PTI*

GOLDEN CHARIOT TO MAKE COMEBACK

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Golden Chariot luxury tourist train is set to resume operations in its revamped form in Karnataka from 14 December, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation said.

The first luxury train, titled 'Pride of Karnataka', will start on 14 December from Bengaluru, covering Bandipur, Mysuru, Halebeedu, Chikkamagaluru, Hampi, Goa and back to Bengaluru. The second train, 'Jewels of South', will start on 21 December from Bengaluru covering Mysuru, Kanchipuram, Mahabalipuram, Thanjavur, Chettinad, Kochi, Cherthala. The journey will be completed in 5 nights and 6 days. —*Salar News*

NEW YEAR SALE

Drugs worth Rs 6.25 crore seized

The 318kg of cannabis, valued at Rs 3.25 crore, was being transported to Bengaluru from Kerala **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

In two separate operations, Anti-Narcotics Wing of Central Crime Branch and City police seized drugs valued at Rs 6.25 crore and arrested five people, including two foreign nationals, for peddling drugs into City from elsewhere.

During November first week, Govindapura police intercepted a car near HRBR Layout and found over 318kg of cannabis, valued at Rs 3.25 crore, that was allegedly being transported to Bengaluru from Kerala by three people. The trio arrested on the spot were Achhu Santosh, 28, hailing from Kerala; Zameer Khan, 29, and his wife Reshma, 28, residents of Jakkur in the City.

> During November first week, Govindapura police intercepted a car near HRBR Layout and found over 318kg of cannabis, valued at Rs 3.25 crore

The main accused, Santosh, has a history of drug peddling and is facing multiple cases in Kerala, said Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda on Friday. The accused also peddled drugs from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh to sell it in Bengaluru for higher prices, Dayananda said.

In a separate operation that began on 19 November, CCB sleuths arrested two Nigerian nationals and seized synthetic drugs, including MDMA crystals, ecstasy tablets and cocaine, valued at Rs 3 crore from them. The accused — Agwu Ezekiel, 32, and Michael Iwgbare, 35, — came to India on a medical visa five years ago and started supplying drugs to techies and college students here. Several cases under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, were registered against the accused in Mumbai and Hyderabad. Dayananda expressed possibilities that these five accused may have been smuggling drugs into Bengaluru in preparation for illegal sales during New Year celebrations. —*Salar News*

Traffic curbs imposed for Kadalekai Parishe

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Ahead of Kadalekai Parishe (groundnut fair) at Doddabasavanna and Dodda Ganapathi Temples in Basavanagudi on 25 and 26 November, traffic police have issued an advisory to accommodate thousands of visitors to the fair.

Vehicles moving towards Hanumanthanagar from Lalbagh West gate, Chamarajapet, Bull Temple Road should take a right turn at Ramakrishna Ashram Circle and proceed towards Seetharamaiah Road via Gavipuram 3rd Cross Road, Mount Joy Road to reach Hanumanthanagar.

Vehicles moving towards Hanumanthanagar from RV Teachers College Road, Trinity Hospital Road, and KR Road via Bugle Rock should take a right turn at Tagore circle (Market Road-Bugle Rock Road Junction) and via Gandhi Bazar Road, proceed towards Ramakrishna Ashram, Junction, Seetharamaiah Road, Gavipuram Extension, 3rd Cross, Mount Joy road to reach Hanumanthanagar.

Groundnut farmers from across State to take part

During Kadalekai Parishe, groundnut farmers from across the State will bring their first harvest to offer it to Nandi and Lord Ganesha. The fair is held on the last Monday of Karthika Masa. —*Salar News*

MVA is united, will decide on CM within a day: Pilot

Pilot dismisses exit poll predictions of BJP winning in 2 states

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Confident of an MVA win in Maharashtra, Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot on Friday said there would not be any issue among alliance constituents in deciding on the CM post after getting a majority and it would not take more than a day to "figure out who will get what position".

Pilot, who was given the charge by the party in the Marathwada region and campaigned extensively in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and in constituencies where bypolls are taking place, dismissed indications by exit polls that the BJP alliance in the two states would get a majority.

On the party's prospects in the recent round of assembly polls after the Haryana defeat, the Congress general secretary said Haryana was a setback and a very surprising one but Maharashtra and Jharkhand were a "separate story".

Talking about the impact of polls on the central government in case the INDIA bloc wins in the two states, he said, "It is not our job to make the government stable and unstable, it is the contradictions within their alliance that will end up doing that."

The results in the Lok Sabha saw an overwhelming defeat of BJP and it was reflective of the mood in and it is bound to continue, he said.

Congress leader Sachin Pilot with Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha and Madhya Pradesh party President Jitendra Patwari **PHOTO: PTI**

> **We are committed to (follow) whatever Eknath Shinde decides. We will be solidly with him. We trust him and it will always be there.**
>
> -Sanjay Shirsat, Shiv Sena MLA

NCP (SP) leader Rohit Pawar on Friday alleged 25-30 BJP workers at midnight tried to enter the strong room where EVMs of Karjat-Jamkhed constituency. *—PTI*

Tawde seeks apology from Kharge, Rahul

NEW DELHI, 22 Nov

BJP leader Vinod Tawde has demanded an apology from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for making "false and baseless" allegations against him in the cash-for-votes incident in Maharashtra, saying if they don't he would sue them for defamation. Tawde was accused by Bahujan Vikas Aghadi, a regional party, of distributing Rs 5 crore to woo voters, with its members barging into a hotel room on 19 November. *—PTI*

Stage set for Jharkhand's 'Battle of Ballot' results

RANCHI, 22 NOV

The stage is set for the outcome of the "battle of ballots" on Saturday, as political leaders and parties anxiously await the results that will decide whether the BJP-led NDA or the JMM-led alliance will form the next government in Jharkhand.

Counting of postal ballots will start at 8 am, and the trends and results are likely to start trickling in by 9 am.

This time, voter turnout reached a record 67.74 per cent, the highest since the formation of the state on 15 November, 2000.

The state witnessed a fierce electoral battle between the ruling JMM-led INDIA bloc and the BJP-led NDA, with the former seeking to retain power and the latter attempting to wrest it from the ruling dispensation.

While some exit polls predict that the BJP-led NDA is likely to oust the ruling JMM-led coalition, others forecast the return of the INDIA alliance in Jharkhand.

This time, voter turnout reached a record 67.74 per cent, the highest since the formation of the state on 15 November, 2000 **PHOTO: PTI**

All eyes will be on key seats that will decide the electoral fates of prominent politicians.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren contested from Barhait, his wife Kalpana from Gandey, while the Leader of Opposition Amar Kumar Bauri (BJP) contested from Chandankiyari.

A total of 1,211 candidates were in the fray, including Babulal Marandi from the BJP in Dhanwar and Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato from the JMM in Nala. —PTI

BJP Yuva Morcha's prez murdered in Punjab

KAPURTHALA, 22 NOV

Unidentified people attacked BJP Yuva Morcha's Sultanpur Lodhi Block president Honey Kumar with sharp edged weapons and murdered him, police said on Friday. The incident took place at Sultanpur Lodhi on Thursday night, they said. His two friends were also injured in the attack, the police said. The deceased was in his early twenties, said Sultanpur Lodhi Deputy Superintendent of Police Sukhpal Singh. Honey Kumar and his two friends went to the grain market after dinner on a motorcycle where the miscreants attacked them with sharp edged weapons and seriously injured them, the police said. The police said that personal enmity was said to be reason behind the attack. *—PTI*

PM security case: SC rejects Punjab govt's plea

DELHI, 22 NOV

Supreme Court Friday turned down the Punjab government's plea seeking statements of witnesses who have deposed before former apex court judge Indu Malhotra to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state in January 2022. A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan asked the state government to independently conduct the enquiry against delinquent officers without the aid of the statements. The Supreme Court-appointed committee to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab had found that the Ferozepur SSP failed to discharge his duty even though sufficient force was available. *—PTI*

TN DyCM's 'Sanatan Dharma' remark: SC delays hearing

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Supreme Court on Friday deferred the hearing on a plea of Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin seeking clubbing of multiple FIRs lodged against him over his purported "eradicate Sanatan Dharma" remark. A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar posted the hearing in February, 2025. It further said the interim order granting the politician exemption from appearing physically before trial courts would continue till further orders. Arguing for Stalin, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi and other counsel pointed out that several respondents (complainants) had not filed their replies on the plea. On 4 March, the top court rebuked Satlin over his remarks, asking why he had moved the court with a plea to club the FIRs against him. *—PTI*

DMK, BJD refute claims of Adani ties

CHENNAI/ NEW DELHI/ BHUBANESWAR/ AMARAVATI, 22 NOV

Amid the chaos over a United States (US) court charging Gautam Adani with allegations of "bribery and fraud," Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) spokesperson Saravana Annadurai on Friday claimed that corruption in Tamil Nadu started when former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa signed a power agreement with the Adani Group directly.

Minister Senthil Balaji has clarified that the Tamil Nadu Electricity Department has never entered into any kind of power purchase agreement or a power sale agreement with Adani Group, the DMK spokesperson added.

India's second richest man Gautam Adani **PHOTO: PTI**

BJD which was in power in Odisha from 2000 till June 2024, on Friday, said the allegations that state government officials took bribes from the Adani Group for supply of renewable energy to the state from the central pool, are "false and not based on fact."

Individuals linked to Adani case associated with Cong: Andhra BJP chief

Andhra Pradesh BJP president D Purandeswari on Friday said the allegations emanating from the US against the Adani Group raises serious questions and claimed that all those linked to these allegations are associated with the Congress party.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the state government is in possession of the "chargesheet reports" filed in the US related to the alleged bribery scam involving the previous YSRCP government and the Adani Group, and "promised" to act on the irregularities.

Andhra Pradesh Congress President YS Sharmila accused her brother, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, of turning the state into "Adani Pradesh" and pledging its interests for a Rs 1,750 crore bribe, calling it a global-level corruption.

AAP MP Sanjay Singh on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of favouring Gautam Adani and alleged that he was responsible for major losses in the stock market.

RJD president Lalu Prasad on Friday came out strongly in support of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's demand for "immediate arrest" of leading industrialist Gautam Adani. *—PTI/ ANI*

Adani & 7 others face arrest risk: Attorney

NEW YORK, 22 NOV

With the US filing civil and criminal charges against billionaire Gautam Adani and seven others over a multi-million-dollar bribery scheme, a prominent attorney here has said that the case could escalate significantly, potentially leading to arrest warrants and even extradition attempts.

Adani, India's second-richest man, and seven others, including his nephew Sagar Adani, have been charged by the US Department of Justice with paying bribes to unidentified officials of state governments in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to buy expensive solar power, potentially earning more than USD 2 billion in profit over 20 years.

Adani Group, however, denied the charges saying the allegations by US prosecutors are "baseless." *—PTI*

Arrest Adani: Kharge to Modi govt

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday urged Centre to immediately take action against industrialist Gautam Adani, following his indictment in the US in a bribery case.

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government of shielding Adani, he said the Congress will raise the issue during the upcoming Parliament session and demand an inquiry into the charges.

Mallikarjun Kharge **PHOTO: ANI**

Noting that for five to six years, the Congress has repeatedly raised the issue, he said, "They (Adani and company) are involved in corruption cases. But Modi does not even utter anything against him."

"Home Minister Amit Shah has ED, CBI with him. Despite having all these agencies, why is no inquiry being done? Last time when we raised the issue following the Hindenburg report they were dismissive about it, saying it is foreign thing, it is false."

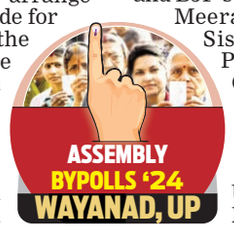
In what seems to be comments directed at Modi, Kharge said, "Claiming to be just and clean in speeches is not enough, your conduct should also be clean..." *—PTI*

Bypoll: UP, Wayanad results awaited

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The counting of votes for the bypolls to 46 Assembly seats in 13 states and in the Lok Sabha segments of Nanded in Maharashtra and Wayanad in Kerala, a crucial electoral exercise since the parliamentary polls in April-May, will begin at 8 am on Saturday.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is making her poll debut from Wayanad, a seat that was earlier represented in the Lok Sabha by her brother, Rahul Gandhi. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the counting of the votes polled in the three bypolls in Kerala -- Wayanad Lok Sabha and the Palakkad and Chelakkara Assembly seats. In Wayanad, Priyanka Gandhi was pitted against Communist Party of India (CPI) veteran Sathyan Mokeri and BJP's Navya Haridas. The Meerapur, Kundarki, Sisamau, Katehari, Phulpur, Majhawan, Ghaziabad, Karhal and Khair seats went to bypolls in the crucial political battleground of Uttar Pradesh on 20 November. *—PTI*



PM holds 31 bilateral meets in 5 days with world leaders

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in 31 bilateral meetings and informal interactions with world leaders during his five days of three-country tour, officials said on Friday.

The whirlwind diplomatic engagements included a bilateral meeting with the Nigerian president in Nigeria, 10 bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Brazil and nine during Modi's visit to Guyana.

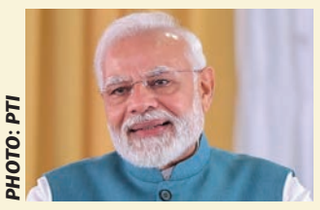


PHOTO: PTI

Modi held the bilateral meetings with various leaders of the country in Brazil, including Indonesia, Portugal, Italy, Norway, France, the UK, Chile, Argentina, and Australia, including his bilateral maiden meetings with Indonesian leader of Prabowo Subianto, Portugal's Luis Montenegro, and Chile's Gabriel Boric. *—PTI*

Omar chairs 1st Cabinet meeting, discusses key issues

JAMMU, 22 NOV

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a cabinet meet ing of his government here on Friday during which various issues, including employment, reservation and recruitment processes, were discussed and directions were passed.

The cabinet, which discussed the growing demand for revising the reservation limit in government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir, decided to form a sub-committee to engage with all stakeholders on the issue.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, other ministers and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo participated in the meeting.

This was the second meeting of this government during its tenure of over one month.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Minister for Jal Shakti and Forests, Javed Ahmed Rana, said that critical issues, including employment, reservation, recruitment processes and development, were deliberated upon.

Responding to another question about unemployment, which emerged as a major focus during the discussions, Rana said, "The CM has instructed all ministers to prioritize addressing unemployment within their respective departments. They should start their exercise." *—PTI*

'DENIAL, DISTORTION, DISTRACTION'

BJP vs Cong: Fresh tussle over Manipur

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

BJP president JP Nadda on Friday accused Congress of pushing an "incorrect, false and politically" motivated narrative on the issue of Manipur unrest, as he hit back at Mallikarjun Kharge for seeking President Droupadi Murmu's intervention and alleging the Centre's complete failure in defusing the crisis.

Congress slammed Nadda over his allegation that the opposition party was pushing a politically motivated narrative on the issue of Manipur, saying his letter to Mallikarjun Kharge is a "4D exercise -- denial, distortion, distraction, and defamation".

In a rejoinder to Kharge, Nadda claimed the repercussions of the Congress's "abject failure" in dealing with local issues in Manipur when it was in power are being felt even today.

He said Kharge seemed to have forgotten that not only did his government legitimise the illegal migration of foreign militants to India, the then home minister P Chidambaram had signed treaties with them.

These known militant leaders fleeing their country to avoid arrest were wholeheartedly endorsed and encouraged to carry on their destabilising efforts, Nadda claimed.

"This complete failure of India's security and administrative protocols under your government is one of the major reasons why militant and habitually violent organisations are attempting to destroy the hard-won peace in Manipur and push it back several decades into the age of anarchy," he said.

Hitting back at Nadda, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Congress President Kharge ji wrote to the President of India on Manipur. Apparently to counter that letter, the BJP President has now written to the Congress President."

In his two-page letter to the President, Kharge had alleged that both the Union and state governments of Manipur have "completely failed" in restoring peace and normalcy in the state during the last 18 months and the people have lost confidence in them.

He had said "refusal" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Manipur is beyond anybody's understanding. *—PTI*

Suspects behind looting of ministers, MLAs found: CM

IMPHAL, 22 NOV

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Friday said that suspects involved in looting the properties of ministers and MLAs during protests on November 16 were identified and legal actions initiated.

He condemned incidents like torching the photograph of a minister's late father in his house, looting the residence of an MLA and firing inside a car showroom, and wondered whether these could be part of any agitation.

Had not CRPF gunned down 10 or 11 militants in Jiribam, some 100 civilians would have been killed on 11 November since the attackers wanted to over run a relief camp in Borobekra and a police station, the CM claimed. *—PTI*

Minister's home fenced to prevent attack

Imphal, 22 Nov

To protect his ancestral house in Imphal East district from mob attack, a Manipur minister has constructed barbed wire fence and iron nets around the residence with temporary bunkers for security forces. Meanwhile, Manipur police arrested seven in cases related to damage to properties. *—PTI*

Three held in Kerala for nursing student's suicide

PATHANAMTHITTA, 22 NOV

Kerala police on Friday said they arrested three female students on Thursday in connection with the suicide of a nursing student in Pathanamthitta district last week. Ammu Sajeev, 22, a final-year BSc nursing student, took her own life at SME Nursing College in Chuttippara, Pathanamthitta district, on the night of 15 November. Ammu Sajeev, a native of Thiruvananthapuram, allegedly killed herself by jumping from the third floor of the hostel building. Two of the arrested students are natives of Kottayam, while one hails from Kollam, police said, adding, "Charges of abetment to suicide have been invoked, after a detailed interrogation and probe." Ammu's father Sajeev had earlier complained to the college principal that her classmates had been mentally torturing his daughter, and that her life was under threat. —*PTI*

7 UP medicos suspended for 'ragging'

GORAKHPUR, 22 NOV

Seven students of Baba Raghav Das Medical College in UP's Gorakhpur were suspended for entering the junior students' hostel without permission and allegedly "ragging" them, officials said. The alleged incident occurred at night on 10 November, after students from the 2024 MBBS batch returned from Chhath Puja holidays. A probe was ordered following an anonymous e-mail complaint to the college's anti-ragging cell. According to the complaint, seven seniors from the 2023 batch allegedly entered the hostel around 10 pm and stayed for about 30 minutes. A review of CCTV footage confirmed that the seniors had entered the hostel without prior permission. Principal Ramkumar Jaiswal said, "Although no proof of ragging was found, the unauthorised entry of senior students into the juniors' hostel was a serious violation of discipline." —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Malayalam writer NN Pillai dies at 100

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Renowned Malayalam playwright and writer Professor Omchery NN Pillai died in Delhi on Friday afternoon. He was 100 years old. Pillai, who was ailing, breathed his last at the St Stephen's Hospital here, according to a family friend. Pillai won multiple awards for his works, including the Sahitya Akademi Award and the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award. He was born in Kerala's Kottayam on 1 February, 1924 and was living in Delhi for decades. In a condolence message, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Pillai was an unparalleled cultural icon of the southern state and an ambassador for Malayalees in the national capital. —*PTI*

Siddique murder: 26th accused held from Akola

MUMBAI, 22 NOV

A man was arrested on Friday from Maharashtra's Akola district in connection with the Baba Siddique murder case, an official said. NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister was shot at on 12 October near his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Nirmal Nagar area in Bandra East. He died some time later at a nearby hospital. A Crime Branch team that had gone to Nagpur in connection with the probe held Sumit Dinkar Wagh, 26, a resident of Panaj in Akot tehsil in Akola, official said. "Wagh transferred money from an account in Karnataka Bank's Petlad Branch in Gujarat, brother of arrested accused Gurmail Singh, as well as accused Rupesh. —*PTI*

SC questions trucks' entry into ailing Delhi

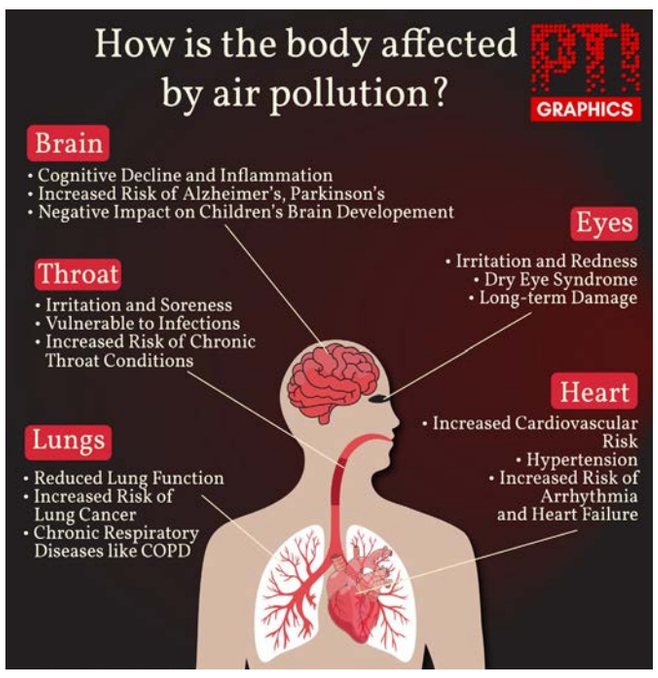
Apex court raps Delhi govt, asks to plug 113 entry points; AQ remains at 'very poor'

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the Delhi government over the entry of trucks in the national capital, which is reeling under severe air pollution.

"It is very difficult for us to assume that entry of trucks in Delhi has been stopped," observed a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih, and directed the Centre to depute police personnel at all 113 points to check the entry of trucks into Delhi. The counsel appearing for the Delhi government informed the bench that there were a total of 113 entry points, including 13 for trucks.

Meanwhile, the air quality in Delhi on Friday morning remained in the "very poor" category, recording an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 373, as the city witnessed a minimum of 11.3 degrees Celsius. —*PTI*


How is the body affected by air pollution?
PTI GRAPHICS
Brain
• Cognitive Decline and Inflammation
• Increased Risk of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's
• Negative Impact on Children's Brain Developement
Eyes
• Irritation and Redness
• Dry Eye Syndrome
• Long-term Damage
Throat
• Irritation and Soreness
• Vulnerable to Infections
• Increased Risk of Chronic Throat Conditions
Heart
• Increased Cardiovascular Risk
• Hypertension
• Increased Risk of Arrhythmia and Heart Failure
Lungs
• Reduced Lung Function
• Increased Risk of Lung Cancer
• Chronic Respiratory Diseases like COPD

SC seeks Gujarat's reply on Asaram's lifer

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from the Gujarat government on a plea filed by jailed self-styled godman Asaram, seeking suspension of the life sentence imposed on him by a trial court in a 2013 rape case. The matter is posted for hearing on 13 December. —*PTI*

Preamble: SC to hear on deletion of 'secular' on 25 Nov

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The Supreme Court on Friday observed that the 1976 amendment to the Constitution, adding terms "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" to the Preamble, underwent judicial reviews and it cannot say whatever Parliament did during the emergency period was all nullity.

A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy, advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain and others, challenging the inclusion of the words "socialist" and "secular" in the Preamble to the Constitution.

The CJI said, "The subject amendment (42nd amendment) has been subjected to a lot of judicial reviews by this court. The Parliament has intervened. We cannot say that whatever Parliament did at that time (emergency) was all nullity."

The bench also refused to refer the matter to a larger bench as sought by petitioner and said that "being socialist" in the Indian sense was understood to be a "welfare state".

The bench said it would pronounce its order on the issue on 25 November.

The words "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" were inserted into the Preamble to the Constitution under the 42nd constitutional amendment moved by the Indira Gandhi government in 1976.

The amendment changed the description of India in the Preamble from a "sovereign, democratic republic" to a "sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic". —*PTI*

SC seeks Masjid's reply on ASI survey

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The Supreme Court on Friday sought the response of the Gyanvapi Masjid committee on an application seeking an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) survey of the sealed area of the mosque in Varanasi, where a "Shivlinga" was claimed to have been found. The bench posted the matter for hearing on 17 December. —*ANI*

SC issues notice to Centre on defaced bills

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The Supreme Court on Friday granted the last opportunity to the Centre to file its response on a PIL seeking CBI probe into the RBI exchanging defaced currency notes worth Rs 30 crore allegedly belonging to a Kashmiri separatist group. The PIL filed by one Satish Bhardwaj, who alleged in 2013 that the Jammu branch of RBI exchanged currency notes for Rs 30 crore. —*PTI*

TRADERS IRKED

Kashmiri Pandits seek aid after shops demolished

Migrant Kashmiri Pandits near the debris of shop that was demolished by the Jammu Development Authority PHOTO: PTI

JAMMU, 22 NOV

- The authorities demolished 12 shops, out of which eight were in operation. The shop owners said the relief they were getting was not sufficient to run the family

Days after the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) demolished the shops of several Kashmiri Pandits in Muthi Phase-2 quarters in Jammu, the migrants who have nowhere to go have urged the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) to rehabilitate them.

The authorities demolished 12 shops, out of which eight were in operation. The shop owners said the relief they were getting was not sufficient to run the family, and they were dependent on the earnings from the shops.

Several migrants living in Phase 2 Muthi camp had been running shops opposite to their quarters for more than thirty years. They alleged that these shops were demolished without notice, leaving them with no earnings other than the migrant relief which they got from the government.

Ashok Raina, a man who lost his shop said, "My shop was here for the past 35 years. We opened these shops to support our livelihood. Our children were educated from this income. Day before yesterday, an instruction came from the JDA that we have to vacate the shops, but it said they would take action only after compensating."

Raina further said that on Thursday, without any notice, JDA carried out the demolition. "We were left on the streets and felt like we were in the 90s again. The commissioner allocated for us only space to keep luggage. We were told that we would be rehabilitated. No official came to see our plight. There were 10 running shops. What will we do?" he said. —*PTI*

Actress seeks to withdraw abuse case

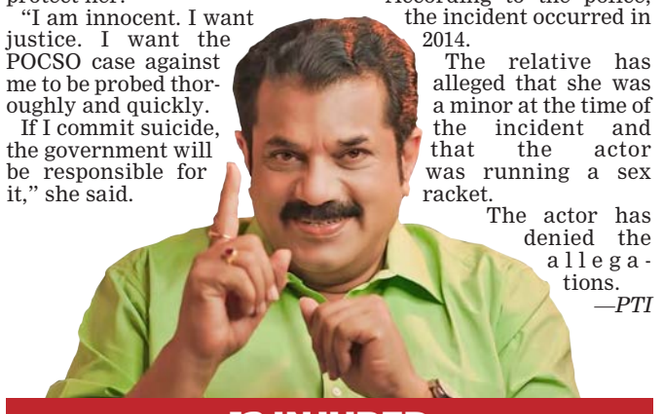
KOCHI, 22 NOV

A 51-year-old Malayalam actress who had levelled sexual abuse allegations against several male actors, including CPI(M) MLA M Mukesh, on Friday said she was not keen on pursuing her complaints due to "lack of support and protection from the Kerala government".

"I would like to tell everyone that due to the government's carelessness and lack of protection for a woman who has come forward like this, I have suffered more than I can handle. I am mentally exhausted. They are not helping or protecting a woman.Therefore, I do not want to pursue the cases. It is not because I have compromised with anyone," she said.

She claimed that she was made an accused in a POCSO case following her complaints against the actors, also including Maniyanpilla Raju and Idavela Babu, and the government did nothing to protect her.

"I am innocent. I want justice. I want the POCSO case against me to be probed thoroughly and quickly. If I commit suicide, the government will be responsible for it," she said.



The Muvattupuzha police had registered the case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, against the woman actor based on a complaint lodged by her relative.

According to the police, the incident occurred in 2014.

The relative has alleged that she was a minor at the time of the incident and that the actor was running a sex racket.

The actor has denied the allegations. —*PTI*

Vaishnaw invites German investors to India

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has invited German companies to invest in India, saying that the country is a trusted partner which offers political and economic stability.

Addressing the TV9 Global Summit in Stuttgart on Thursday evening, he said India was growing steadily at 6-8 percent and was poised to continue this trajectory for many years to come.

"Consider including India in your supply chain. India hosts over 1,800 global capability centres across virtually every sector. We offer a vast pool of talent, with world-renowned capabilities in IT," the minister said.

"The success of our government reflects in the fact that good economics can also make good politics. While many democratic nations have faced turmoil, India remains a trusted partner, offering both political and economic stability," he said.

Vaishnaw said India had a very healthy balance sheet, with debt at 57 percent of the GDP, well below the debt levels seen in other large economies.

The minister said India's growth strategy was based on three pillars of public investment in physical, social and digital infrastructure –large number of inclusive growth programs, focus on manufacturing and innovation and simplification of legal and compliance structures. —*PTI*

'Dead' man comes alive, 3 docs suspended

JAIPUR, 22 NOV

A 25-year-old man who was declared dead by medicos in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district regained consciousness moments before his cremation, following which three doctors were suspended.

A committee has been formed to investigate the matter and the secretary of the medical department has been informed, Meena said.

The man with hearing and speech disability, identified as Rohitash Kumar, did not have any family and lived in a shelter home.

The police prepared a "panchnama" and transported the body to a crematorium. However, as his body was placed on the pyre, Kumar suddenly started breathing. He was rushed back to hospital, police said. —*PTI*

12 INJURED

Gas leak at M'rashtra fertiliser plant kills 3

SANGLI/MUMBAI, 22 NOV

PHOTO: X

- Seven of the injured persons have been admitted to Sahyadri Hospital in Karad and five of them are in ICU

Three people, including two women, were killed and nine others hospitalised following a gas leak after a blast in a reactor at a fertiliser plant in Maharashtra's Sangli district, an official said on Friday.

The incident took place around 6.30pm on Thursday at the Myanmar Chemical Company in Shalgaon MIDC of Kadegaon tehsil in the district, the official said.

Police said a reactor at the fertiliser plant exploded releasing chemical fumes.

"Due to the gas leak, some 12 people in the unit were affected and taken to hospital. Of them, two women workers and a security guard have died. Nine others are being treated," said Sangram Shewale, senior inspector of Kadegaon police station.

Sangli Superintendent of Police Sandip Ghuge said the gas was suspected to be ammonia.

Seven of the injured persons have been admitted to Sahyadri Hospital in Karad and five of them are in the ICU, said another official.

The two women who lost their lives have been identified as Suchita Uthale (50) of Yetgaon in Sangli district and Neelam Rethrekar (26) of Masur in Satara district, the official said. —*PTI*

TENSE FRIDAY PRAYERS

Now, plea claims UP mosque is Hindu temple

SAMBHAL, 22 NOV

Security personnel keep vigil ahead of Friday prayers amid the ongoing controversy regarding the Jama Masjid, in UP, on Friday PHOTO: PTI

Police stepped up security, imposed prohibitory orders and conducted a flag march ahead of Friday prayers at the Jama Masjid in UP's Sambhal, following claims that the Mughal-era mosque was originally the site of an ancient temple significant to the Hindu faith.

The mosque was surveyed on Tuesday on the orders of a local court after Supreme Court lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain filed a petition, claiming that a Harihar temple originally stood at the site, but Mughal emperor Babar partly demolished it in 1529.

The Central government, the UP government, the Masjid Committee and the district magistrate of Sambhal have been made parties in the petition, said Jain.

"The Harihar temple in Sambhal... is an ASI-protected area. There are many signs and symbols there which are of Hindu temple," he said.

In view of the petition and subsequent survey, police conducted a flag march in the area and warned people against causing disturbance over the issue, said Sambhal Superintendent of Police Krishna Kumar Vishnoi. "Clerics have been told to inform everyone that they should offer Namaz in their own mosques," he said.

District Magistrate Rajendra Pesia said that prohibitory orders have been imposed in the area.

Samajwadi Party MP Zia Ur Rehman Barq said, "The Jama Masjid of Sambhal is historical and very old. The Supreme Court had given the order in 1991 that whatever religious places are there in whatever condition since 1947, they will remain at their places." —*PTI*

Army tests Made in India Asmi machine pistols

JAMMU, 22 NOV

Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar on Friday reviewed the newly inducted Asmi machine pistols.

The Indian Army earlier this month inducted 550 indigenously developed Asmi machine pistols into the Northern Command, which oversees operations in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

This is the first batch of the 100 per cent Indian-made weapon intended to equip special forces for close-quarter battles and specialised operations in India's Northern Theatre.

"Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar, Army Commander Northern Command, reviewed and carried out firing of the newly inducted Asmi machine pistols at Udhampur," the Northern Command posted on X.

The weapon has been developed by Colonel Prasad Bansod of the Indian Army in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The weapon is being manufactured indigenously by Lokesh Machines Limited in Hyderabad.

The Army said the pistol's unique semi-bullpup design allows for single-handed operation, functioning both as a pistol and a submachine gun.

According to the specifications, the gun, which features an eight-inch barrel and a 33-round magazine firing 9mm ammunition, is set to arm the Special Forces for close-quarter battles and specialised operations . —*PTI*

INDIA'S 1ST LUXURY BANQUET

Ahmedabad is set to launch its first-ever luxury banquet cruise on the Sabarmati River, a Rs 25 crore project aimed at boosting tourism. The state-of-the-art cruise will feature premium dining, event spaces, and entertainment facilities, offering a unique experience. The vessel will have a capacity to host around 150 guests, making it ideal for private parties, corporate events, and celebrations

PHOTO: X

Battle for Maharashtra CM post intensifies

Even before the first votes are counted in Maharashtra, fissures have emerged within the ruling Mahayuti and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on who will head the next government with constituents in both camps laying claim over the chief minister's post.

After polling for the 288-member assembly ended on Wednesday evening, the ruling as well as opposition fronts have started claiming that mandate will be in their favour when votes are counted on 23 November.

Soon after polling, state Congress chief Nana Patole asserted an MVA government would be formed in Maharashtra under the leadership of his party.

Voting trends suggest the Congress will get the maximum number of seats in the new assembly, he said.

His remarks did not go down well with ally Shiv Sena (UBT), whose leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday insisted the chief ministerial face will be decided by all alliance partners jointly once the MVA secures majority.

The Rajya Sabha MP said if the Congress high command has told Patole that he will be the CM face then the national party's president Mallikarjun Kharge, and its top leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra should announce the same.

The MVA, consisting of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) and the Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP, have expressed confidence that their respective alliance will form the next government after votes are counted on Saturday.

While a majority of exit polls have predicted that Mahayuti will retain power, a few have favoured the MVA.

On the Mahayuti side, Shiv Sena MLA and party spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat said the assembly elections were contested with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as the face.

Possible Chief Minister candidates are NCP(SP) leader Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena chief and Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray ***PHOTO: PTI***

- MVA, consisting of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) and the Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP, have expressed confidence that their alliance will form the next government after votes are counted on Saturday

BJP leader Pravin Darekar batted for Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for the top post.

"I think if anyone from the BJP is becoming the CM then it will be Devendra Fadnavis," he said.

NCP leader Amol Mitkari pushed the name of his party chief and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar for the coveted job.

Asked about the CM face, Fadnavis maintained all three Mahayuti parties will sit together and take a "good decision".

Speaking to reporters separately, BJP leader Darekar claimed the Mahayuti will form the next government, dismissing the possibility of the MVA coming to power, and said the opposition bloc was plagued by "internal rifts".

"The people of Maharashtra have given a clear mandate. The Chief Minister will be from the Mahayuti, not the MVA, and certainly not the Congress," he asserted.

Highlighting divisions within the MVA, Darekar said, "Congress MP Praniti Shinde and her father and former CM Sushilkumar Shinde supported an independent candidate against Uddhav Thackeray's nominee in a constituency in Solapur district. These internal rifts expose a lack of unity. How can parties without internal coherence decide on a Chief Minister?"

The BJP leader said Patole's aspirations to become chief minister were nothing but "Mungerilal ke haseen sapne" (daydreaming).

On exit polls, Darekar remarked, "While no exit poll is final, most have predicted a Mahayuti win. Even independent candidates (on winning) are likely to back Mahayuti."

Taking a swipe at Prahar Janshakti Party leader Bachchu Kadu, he said, "Kadu speaks with grand bravado, but his own seat is under threat. Let him first declare how many of his candidates are winning."

On the alleged involvement of NCP (SP) Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule and Patole in using bitcoins illegally to fund elections, Darekar said the truth will come out soon.

Both Sule and Patole have denied the allegations.

Highlighting the increase in turnout in 20 November assembly polls in the state, Darekar credited the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for their grassroots campaign to encourage voting.

The final turnout in Maharashtra assembly polls was 66.05 per cent, up from 61.1 per cent in 2019, according to the Election Commission.

Darekar maintained the Mahayuti government's 'Ladki Bahin Yojana' has resonated with women voters. *—PTI*

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

'X' factor at Baku & its impact on global South

After two weeks of intense negotiations at the UN climate conference here, countries are facing an 'X' sitting in a bracket instead of a clear figure for the trillions of dollars needed to help developing nations fight climate change - a problem they did not create.

Developed countries, which built their economies on fossil fuels and are responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change, are still avoiding a key question: how much climate finance will they provide to developing countries each year starting in 2025?

At the UN climate conference in Baku, they are required to update the climate finance goal of USD 100 billion agreed upon in 2009 to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year to meet the needs of developing countries amid the intensifying impacts of climate change.

The core of the USD 1.3 trillion should be at least USD 600 billion from developed countries' public coffers, as developing countries reject the idea of relying on the private sector, which they argue is more interested in profit than accountability.

It's the final day of the conference, and countries are awaiting a new "acceptable" version of the draft text that can be refined to produce a balanced outcome.

The draft text on the new climate finance package issued on Thursday contained an 'X' in a bracket instead of the amount that the Global South had hoped for.

It left developing nations disappointed and angry, as what replaces the 'X' is a matter of survival for some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people on the front lines of the climate crisis.

At the start of the conference, the World Meteorological Organisation sounded the alarm: 2024 is on track to be the hottest year on record, and the first to cross the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold -the point beyond which climate impacts could become more devastating.

According to the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), an estimated 23.7 million people were displaced in 2023 due to climate-related events, such as storms, floods, and droughts. This number is expected to rise unless developed countries provide the necessary financial support to help developing and low-income nations combat climate change at scale.

Harjeet Singh, a climate activist and Global Engagement Director for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, said developed countries are negotiating in bad faith, shirking their responsibility and shifting the financial burden onto struggling economies.

"By pressuring these nations to mobilise domestic resources they simply don't have, they are perpetuating inequality and deepening the climate crisis," he said.

As per a developing country negotiator, instead of providing quality finance in a transparent manner, the developed world at COP29 has been pushing them to cut emissions but has "conveniently forgotten that they need to pay for it".

"They want a phase-down, a phase-out, ambitious climate plans, sectoral emission cuts, everything, but don't want to pay for it," the negotiator said.

India on Thursday said that it will not accept any effort by developed countries to shift the focus away from climate finance for developing countries and place it on emissions reductions in the Global South.

Without adequate support in terms of finance, technology, and capacity building, the fight against climate change would be severely impacted, it said.

Developed countries have been pushing the argument of "expanding the contributors' base," essentially calling for nations that were classified as developing when the UN climate convention was adopted in 1992 but have since grown significantly, to also contribute to climate finance.

For developing countries, this is a red line. They argue that this would mean reopening and renegotiating the convention and the Paris Agreement.

"Would you renegotiate 1.5 degrees Celsius, too?" another negotiator from a developing country asked.

With just hours to go before the conference wraps up, negotiators are in high-stakes talks, scrambling to salvage the summit and the progress of the last three years. Meanwhile, outside the meeting rooms, civil society members, observers, and journalists are placing bets on how long this will drag on -- it is clear the summit will head into extra time. *—PTI*

At the UN climate conference, they are required to update climate finance goal of USD 100 billion agreed upon in 2009 to meet the needs of developing countries ***PHOTO: PTI***

Sexual misconduct charges loom over Trump & his Cabinet picks

While Matt Gaetzhas withdrawn from the nomination process for attorney general, President-elect Donald Trump has picked several other people for his Cabinet and key staff positions who have been accused of some form of sexual misconduct.

Trump himself has long been accused of abusing or mistreating women and once was caught bragging about grabbing women by the genitals. He was found liable by a New York City jury for sexual abuse and defamation and eventually ordered to pay the woman, E. Jean Carroll, USD 83 million in damages.

Taken together, there are a striking number of incidents in which potential high-ranking government officials in Trump's second administration face allegations of sexual abuse. Trump and all of his picks for government have denied the claims against them, with some of the people accused arguing the cases are driven by politics.

President-elect Donald Trump

Jurors in New York last year found Trump liable for sexually abusing Carroll, an advice columnist, in 1996.

The verdict was split: Jurors rejected Carroll's claim that she was raped, finding Trump responsible for a lesser degree of sexual abuse. Jurors also found Trump liable for defaming Carroll over her allegations. Trump did not attend the civil trial and was absent when the verdict was read.

Carroll was one of more than a dozen women who have accused Trump of sexual assault or harassment. She went public in a 2019 memoir with her allegation that the Republican raped her in the dressing room of a posh Manhattan department store.

Trump denied it, saying he never encountered Carroll at the store and did not know her. He has called her a "nut job" who invented "a fraudulent and false story" to sell a memoir. He has similarly denied claims by other women.

Pete Hegseth, nominee for secretary of defence

A woman told police that she was sexually assaulted in 2017 by Hegseth after he took her phone, blocked the door to a California hotel room and refused to let her leave, according to a detailed investigative report made public this week.

Hegseth told police at the time that the encounter had been consensual and denied any wrongdoing, the report said.

Elon Musk, Pete Hegseth, Robert F Kennedy Jr, & Matt Gaetz ***PHOTO: X***

Robert F Kennedy Jr, nominee for secretary of health and human services

A woman who babysat for Kennedy and his second wife told Vanity Fair magazine that he groped her in the late 1990s, when she was 23. Kennedy did not deny the allegation, telling a podcast: "I had a very, very rambunctious youth." He texted the woman an apology after the story was published.

According to an interview the woman gave this week with USA Today, she said she was babysitting for his children at Kennedy's home in Mount Kisco, New York. She said that the assault happened soon after she began working there. During a kitchen table meeting with Kennedy and another person, she said she felt him rubbing her leg under the table.

Linda McMahon, nominee for secretary of education

A lawsuit filed last month alleges that McMahon knowingly enabled sexual exploitation of children by a World Wrestling Entertainment employee as early as the 1980s. She denies the allegations.

The complaint alleges that Melvin Phillips, who died in 2012, would target young men from disadvantaged backgrounds and hire them as "ring boys" to help with the preparations for wrestling matches. Phillips would then assault them in his dressing room, hotels and even in the wrestlers' locker room, according to the complaint, which was filed on behalf of five men.

The abuse detailed in the lawsuit occurred over several years during Phillips' long tenure with the organization spanning from the 1970s to the early 1990s. Because of his death, Phillips is not among the named defendants.

Brevetti confirmed Linda and Vince McMahon are separated.

Elon Musk, Trump's choice to lead the new Department of Government Efficiency

Tesla and SpaceXCEO Elon Musk was accused of sexual misconduct by a flight attendant contracted by SpaceX who worked on his private jet in 2016. He denied the claim.

A 2022 report by Business Insider said SpaceX paid the woman USD 250,000 in severance in 2018 in exchange for her agreeing not to file a lawsuit over her claim.

The Business Insider report was based on an account by the flight attendant's friend, who said the flight attendant told her about the incident shortly after it happened.

The report also said the flight attendant was required to sign a non-disclosure agreement that prohibits her from discussing the payment or anything else about Musk and SpaceX. SpaceX didn't respond to emails seeking comment Friday.

Matt Gaetz, who withdrew as Trump's choice for attorney general

The former Florida congressman was embroiled in a sex trafficking investigation by the Justice Department he had been tapped to lead.

He also was under scrutiny by the House Ethics Committee over allegations including sexual misconduct — until he resigned from Congress this week. He then withdrew his name for consideration.

Gaetz has vehemently denied any wrongdoing and said last year that the Justice Department's investigation into sex trafficking allegations involving underage girls had ended with no federal charges against him.

Two women House investigators that Gaetz paid them for sex and one of the women testified she saw him having sex with a 17-year-old, according to an attorney for the women.

The committee began its review of Gaetz in April 2021, deferred its work in response to a Justice Department request, and renewed its work shortly after Gaetz announced that the Justice Department had ended a sex trafficking investigation. *—PTI*

Bibi compares ICC warrants to Dreyfus trial

He refutes accusations of imposing a starvation policy in Gaza saying Israel provides 7,00,000 tonnes of supplies

TEL AVIV, 22 NOV

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned International Criminal Court's (ICC) arrest warrants against him and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, accusing them of "crimes against humanity and war crimes."

"The anti-Semitic decision of the ICC is comparable to the modern-day Dreyfus trial — and it will end in the same way," he said. The charges include allegations of targeting civilians and enforcing policies of starvation in Gaza.

Netanyahu drew parallels between his situation and the false treason charges against French Jewish officer Alfred Dreyfus over 130 years ago. Referring to Emile Zola's famous essay J'accuse that defended Dreyfus, Netanyahu said, "Now an international court in The Hague, also headed by a French judge, is repeating this outrageous offence. It is falsely accusing me and Gallant of deliberately targeting civilians."

He defended Israel's military actions in Gaza, claiming that measures implemented were necessary to minimise civilian casualties.

Netanyahu dismissed accusations of imposing a starvation policy, highlighting that Israel had supplied 7,00,000 tons of food to Gaza. He stated, "We've supplied Gaza with 7,00,000 tonens of food to feed the people of Gaza. That's 3,200 calories for every man, woman, and child in Gaza. And these supplies are routinely looted by Hamas terrorists, who deprive their people of much-needed food." He also noted that Israel had facilitated the vaccination of 97 percent of Gaza's population against polio. Netanyahu called the ICC's charges baseless, asking, "What in God's name are they talking about in The Hague?"

He criticised the ICC for focusing on Israel while ignoring war crimes in countries like Iran, Syria, and Yemen. He also denounced the court for its failure to act against Hamas, describing their atrocities during the recent Gaza conflict.

The US rejected the ICC decision to issue arrest warrants. In the late 19th centuries, a scandal broke in the French Army that involved a Jewish artillery captain, Dreyfus, who was falsely convicted for passing military secrets. In 1894, a French spy at the German Embassy in Paris discovered a ripped-up letter in a waste basket with handwriting said to resemble that of Dreyfus. After that, Dreyfus was court-martialed, found guilty of treason and sentenced to life behind bars. *—PTI*

WAR WATCH MIDDLE EAST

S Korea says Russia supplied missiles to North

SEOUL, 22 NOV

Russia supplied air defence missiles to North Korea in exchange for sending its troops to support Russia's war efforts against Ukraine, a top South Korean official said Friday.

The US, South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia. It has been unclear what Russia would give North Korea in return.

Many observers say North Korea likely feels the urgent need to boost its air defence capabilities for the capital after the North last month accused South Korea of dropping propaganda leaflets over Pyongyang. North Korea threatened to take military action if leaflets were again dropped. *—PTI*

N Korea says, past diplomacy only confirmed US hostility

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his past negotiations with the US confirmed Washington's "unchangeable" hostility toward his country and described his nuclear buildup as the only way to counter external threats, state media said Friday. *—PTI*

US FIRMS WARNED OF RUSSIAN ATTACK

WASHINGTON, 22 NOV

US intelligence officials warned American defence companies on Thursday to increase security precautions following several acts of sabotage in Europe that officials have blamed on Russia.

The public bulletin issued by the National Counterintelligence and Security Centre advised companies involved in defence work — particularly those providing support to Ukraine in its war against Russia — to step up their defences in the face of Russia's escalating aggression toward Ukraine's allies.

UN NUKE WATCHDOG CENSURES IRAN

VIENNA, 22 NOV

The UN nuclear watchdog's board on Thursday condemned Iran for failing to cooperate fully with the agency, the second time it has done so in just five months.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also called on Tehran to provide answers in a long-running investigation into uranium particles found at two locations that Tehran has failed to declare as nuclear sites.

Nineteen members of the IAEA board voted for the resolution, while Russia, China and Burkina Faso opposed it. *—PTI*

Indian student in US accidentally shoots himself

ATLANTA, 22 NOV

A 23-year-old Indian student, Aryan Reddy, died after he shot himself in a freak accident on 13November while celebrating his birthday in Atlanta, Georgia. Reddy, a Master of Science student at Kansas State University, accidentally misfired a hunting gun he had purchased while cleaning it during the celebration. He hailed from Hailing from Sairam Nagar in Telangana. Upon hearing the gunshot, his friends rushed to the room and found him lying in a pool of blood, officials said They immediately took him to a nearby hospital, but he was declared dead. ***—Salar News with Agencies***

London airport evacuates due to suspicious item

TAIPEI, 22 NOV

London's Gatwick Airport evacuated part of its South Terminal as a precaution on Friday while police investigated a suspicious item found in luggage. Authorities were called to the terminal at 8.20 am after the discovery of a "suspected prohibited item," Sussex Police said in a statement. "To ensure the safety of the public, staff and other airport users, a security cordon has been put in place whilst the matter is dealt with," police said. "As a precaution, an EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) team is being deployed to the airport." No one will be able to enter the South Terminal until the incident is resolved, the airport said in a statement on X. ***—PTI***

2nd Australian dies in Laos poisonous alcohol case

VANG VIENG, 22 NOV

A second Australian teenager, Holly Bowles, has died in a Bangkok hospital after falling critically ill after drinking poisonous alcohol in Laos. The death toll in the mass poisoning of foreign tourists has risen to six. An officer at Vang Vieng's Tourism Police office, who refused to give his name, told The Associated Press on Friday that a "number of people" had been detained in the case but that no charges have yet been filed. The US State Department on Friday issued a health alert for citizens traveling in Laos, warning of "suspected methanol poisoning in Vang Vieng, possibly through the consumption of methanol-laced alcoholic drinks," following similar alerts from other countries whose citizens were involved. ***—PTI***

Trump nominates Bondi as AG after Gaetz's withdrawal

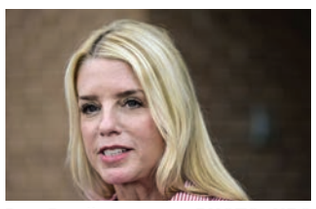
WASHINGTON, 22 NOV

President-elect Donald Trump has selected Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi as his nominee for Attorney General, hours after his initial pick Matt Gaetz withdrew his name amid controversy over alleged sexual misconduct.

Former Congressman Gaetz on Thursday announced his decision to withdraw from the nomination process for the post.

Trump noted that Bondi served as a prosecutor for nearly 20 years, during which she was "very tough on violent criminals, and made the streets safe for Florida families".

"Then, as Florida's first female Attorney General, she worked to stop the trafficking of deadly drugs and reduce the tragedy of Fentanyl overdose deaths, which have destroyed many families across our country," he said.



Pam Bondi **PHOTO: NBC**

Trump praised Bondi for doing an "incredible" job.

He alleged that the Department of Justice (DOJ) had been weaponised against him and other Republicans. "Not anymore," said the President-elect.

Earlier in the day, Gaetz withdrew himself from the nomination after facing backlash from both the opposition and his own Republican Party Senators. He made the surprising announcement a day after he met with Senators on Capitol Hill. *—PTI*

Tariff hikes will backfire on US: Beijing

Higher tariffs on Chinese exports will backfire, just increasing prices paid by consumers, while China can manage to weather the impact of such "external shocks," a Chinese official said.

Responding to a question about Trump's plan to impose 60% tariffs he said that would "not solve the US' own trade deficit problem". *—PTI*

WINTER BLUES, SNOWY VIEWS

A major storm moving through Northern California dropped heavy snow and record rain, flooding some areas, after killing two people.Forecasters warned on Thursday the risk of flash flooding and rockslides would continue, as scores of flights were cancelled at San Francisco's airport. In Washington, more than 2,04,000 people — mostly in the Seattle area — remained without power as crews worked to clear streets of electrical lines, fallen branches and debris **PHOTO: X**

Pak security forces kill 3 terrorists in Khyber

PESHAWAR, 22 NOV

Three terrorists were killed by security forces during an operation in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, the army said.

Acting on a tip-off, security forces conducted the operation in Bannu district, the military's media wing said.

During the operation, three terrorists were killed and two others injured, it said.

A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the possession of the militants. *—PTI*

A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the possession of the militants **PHOTO: PTI**

Govt employees in Pak warned not to help PTI's protest march

Government employees in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been officially warned of dire consequences against their participation and use of government machinery for the proposed protest march by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party on Sunday. The official letters were issued in view of the previous protest by the PTI in October when massive government resources and manpower of the province were used by the PTI-led government headed by Ali Amin Gandapur. *—PTI*

GERMAN DEFENCE MINISTER REBUFFS CHANCELLOR BID

BERLIN, 22 NOV

Germany's popular Defence Minister has taken himself out of contention to become the country's next leader, clearing the way for Chancellor Olaf Scholz to seek a second term in an early election after a week of arguments that exposed deep divisions in his struggling party.

Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said in a video Thursday that he has informed the centre-left Social Democrats' leadership that he is "not available for a candidacy for the office of chancellor". He said that "Olaf Scholz is a strong chancellor and he is the right candidate for chancellor". Pistorius' announcement resolves the question of who will run in the election expected on 23 February, but a week of very public arguments is widely viewed as having damaged a party that was already far behind the main opposition Centre-Right Union bloc in polls. *—PTI*

Brazil's police indict Bolsonaro for alleged attempted coup

SAO PAULO, 22 NOV

Police indicted Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro and 36 others for allegedly attempting a coup to keep the Right-wing leader in office after his defeat in the 2022 election. Already barred from running again in 2026 for a different case, he could now land in jail and see his influence further diminished.

Brazil's federal police said the sealed findings in Thursday's indictment were being delivered to Brazil's Supreme Court, which will refer them to Prosecutor-General Paulo Gonet, who will decide whether to formally charge Bolsonaro and put him on trial, or toss the investigation.

And politicians say if Bolsonaro does stand trial at the Supreme Court there will be a race among his allies and rivals to seize his influence with voters.

Bolsonaro told the website Metropoles that he was waiting for his lawyer to review the indictment, reportedly about 700 pages long. But he said he would fight the case and dismissed the investigation as being the result of "creativity". The former president has denied all claims he tried to stay in office after his narrow electoral defeat in 2022 to leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. *—PTI*

Jair Bolsonaro **PHOTO: FB**

1994 MURDER CASE

Alabama sees third nitrogen gas execution

ATMORE, 22 NOV

An Alabama man convicted in the 1994 killing of a hitchhiker cursed at the prison warden and made obscene gestures with his hands shortly before he was put to death on Thursday in the nation's third execution using nitrogen gas.

Carey Dale Grayson, 50, was executed at the William C Holman Correctional Facility in southern Alabama. He was one of four teenagers convicted of killing Vickie DeBlieux, 37, as she hitchhiked through the state on the way to her mother's home in Louisiana. The woman was attacked, beaten and thrown off a cliff.

Alabama began using nitrogen gas earlier this year to carry out some executions. The method involves placing a respirator gas mask over the face to replace breathable air with pure nitrogen gas, causing death by lack of oxygen.

REMEMBER THE VICTIMS BUT NOT WITH MORE KILLING
We Oppose The EXECUTION THIS WEEK
SAY NO TO THE GAS CHAMBER!
EXECUTION IS NOT THE SOLUTION
ACTION

Alabama began using nitrogen gas earlier this year to carry out some executions **PHOTO: PTI**

Alabama Corrections Commissioner John Q Hamm said the nitrogen flowed for 15 minutes and an electrocardiogram showed Grayson no longer had a heartbeat about 10 minutes after the gas began flowing.

Like two others previously executed by nitrogen, Grayson shook at times before taking a periodic series of gasping breaths.

The victim's daughter told reporters afterward that her mother had her future stolen from her. But she also spoke out against the decision to execute Grayson and "murdering inmates under the guise of justice". DeBlieux's mutilated body was found at the bottom of a bluff near Odenville, Alabama, on 26 February, 1994. She was hitchhiking from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to her mother's home in West Monroe, Louisiana, when the four teens offered her a ride. *—PTI*

Aus rejects Musk's claim of controlling net access

MELBOURNE, 22 NOV

Elon Musk and Anthony Albanese **PHOTO: X@MARIONAWFAL**

An Australian Cabinet minister on Friday rejected X Corp owner Elon Musk's allegation that the government intended to control all Australians' access to the internet through legislation that would ban young children from social media.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers said Musk's criticism was "unsurprising" after the government introduced to Parliament on Thursday legislation that would fine platforms including X up to 150 million Australian dollars ($133 million) if they allow children under age 16 to hold social media accounts.

"The idea that Musk is not delighted with our steps to try and protect kids online is not an especially big surprise to us, nor does it trouble us greatly," Chalmers told reporters.

The spat continues months of open hostility between the Australian government and the tech billionaire over regulators' efforts to reduce public harm from social media.

Parliament could pass legislation as soon as next week that would oblige X, TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit and Instagram to ban young children from their platforms.

The legislation introduced on Thursday will be debated by lawmakers in Parliament on Monday. *—PTI*

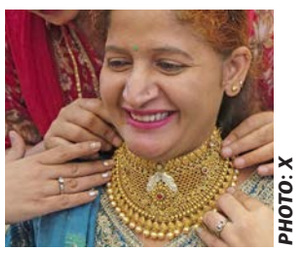


PHOTO: X

Gold hits 2-week high of Rs 80,400, silver gains Rs 300

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Gold prices surged Rs 1,100 to hit a two-week high of Rs 80,400 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday due to persistent buying by jewellers and retailers during the ongoing wedding season, according to the All India Sarafa Association. On Thursday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity finished at Rs 79,300 per 10 grams. Silver also climbed Rs 300 to Rs 93,300 per kg. It had closed at Rs 93,000 per kg in the previous session. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity soared Rs 1,100, extending the gains for the second consecutive day to Rs 80,000 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had finished at Rs 78,900 per 10 grams on Thursday. *—PTI*

X India's top news app on App Store: Musk

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 NOV

Elon Musk on Friday claimed that X, formerly the microblogging site Twitter, had become the No.1 news app on the App Store in India. Musk shared the news via a post on X, saying, "X is now number 1 for news in India." The announcement was initially shared by X handle Dogedesigner, who claimed, "BREAKING: X is now the number one news app on the App Store in India." The handle also revealed a new feature on X. "BREAKING: You can now rewind a live video on X," it said.According to Statista.com, India has the third highest number of Twitter users. *—ANI*

Avaada mulls ₹5,800 cr pumped hydro storage

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Green energy solutions provider Avaada Group has said it will invest Rs 5,800 crore to develop a 1200MW pumped hydropower storage project in Rajasthan. The group has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop the Pumped Storage Project, which comprises development of 1200 MW Kadambari PSP in the Sirohi district, a company statement said. With a total investment of approximately Rs 5,800 crore over the next five to seven years, the project is poised to play a transformative role in ensuring Rajasthan's energy security and environmental sustainability. "These investment initiatives not only address the rising energy demands but also pave the way for sustainable growth, employment creation, and economic resilience," said Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

BMW India plans 3% price hike from Jan

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

BMW India on Friday said it would increase the prices of its entire model range by up to three per cent from 1 January 2025. The company's locally produced cars includes the 2 Series Gran Coupe, 3 Series Long Wheelbase, 5 Series Long Wheelbase, 7 Series Long Wheelbase, X1, X3, X5, X7 and M340i. It also sells models like i4, i5, i7, i7 M70, iX1, BMW iX, Z4 M40i, M2 Coupe among others as Completely Built-up Units. Mercedes-Benz earlier cited a rise in input costs, inflationary pressures and higher operational expenses for the price hike. This will make the Indian models costlier by Rs 2 lakh for the GLC to Rs 9 lakh for the top-end Mercedes-Maybach S 680 luxury limousine. *—PTI*

Six Adani firms bounce back from US jolt

Adani Green shares tank 8.2%, Adani Energy slumps 6.9% & Adani Power falls 3.23%

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The shares of six Adani Group firms bounced back on Friday from the previous day's sharp drubbing, in tandem with a bull rally in the equity market wherein the BSE benchmark Sensex zoomed 1,961 points.

The stock of Ambuja Cements jumped 3.50 per cent, ACC climbed 3.17 per cent, the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises advanced 2.16 per cent, Adani Ports rose 2.05 per cent, Adani Total Gas shot up by 1.18 per cent and NDTV edged up 0.65 per cent on the BSE.

In contrast, shares of Adani Green Energy tanked 8.20 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions slumped 6.92 per cent, Adani Power declined 3.23 per cent, and Adani Wilmar slipped 0.73 per cent.

Most of the Group stock fell during the morning trade after Gautam Adani was charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay USD 265M (about Rs 2,200 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts.

Adani Group on Thursday denied charges of paying bribes to secure favourable terms for solar power *PHOTO: ANI*

In the equity market, the benchmark indices staged a sharp recovery. The BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,961.32 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 79,117.11, and the NSE Nifty surged 557.35 points or 2.39 per cent to 23,907.25.

Shares of Adani group firms fell sharply on Thursday. The stock of Adani Enterprises had plunged 22.61 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions tanked 20 per cent, Adani Green Energy plummeted 18.80 per cent, Adani Ports dived 13.53 per cent, Ambuja Cements cracked 11.98 per cent, and Adani Total Gas tumbled 10.40 per cent on the BSE. Shares of Adani Wilmar declined 9.98 per cent, Adani Power slumped 9.15 per cent, ACC fell 7.29 per cent, and NDTV dipped 0.06 per cent.

Adani group on Thursday denied charges of paying bribes to secure favourable terms for solar power contracts, saying the allegations by US prosecutors are baseless and the conglomerate is compliant with all laws. *—PTI*

Adani firms under tight scrutiny: Watchdog

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Gautam Adani *PHOTO: PTI*

The indictment of Adani Group's founder Gautam Adani by US prosecutors could renew questions over the ports-to-energy conglomerate's governance practices and damage its reputation, S&P Global Ratings said on Friday.

US prosecutors have charged Adani and seven others including his nephew Sagar, with agreeing to pay about USD 265M in bribes to Indian government officials to obtain favourable terms for a solar power supply contract. Adani Group has denied all charges, calling them "baseless", and said it would seek "all possible legal recourse". "The allegations could renew questions over the group's governance practices and damage its reputation. We will watch for any signs of weaker funding access or concerns from existing lenders – which could be demonstrated by the lowering of funding limits, non-renewal of facilities, or higher credit spreads," S&P said. *—PTI*

SBI, TCS JUMP 4%

Sensex back at 79K level, Nifty surges 557 points

MUMBAI, 22 NOV

Benchmark equity indices rebounded sharply on Friday, with the Sensex climbing 2.54 per cent to reclaim the 79,000 level, driven by across-the-board rally and value buying at lower levels. Strong buying by domestic institutional investors and a firm trend in the US markets also bolstered market sentiment, traders said.

The BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,961.32 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 79,117.11. During the day, it surged 2,062.4 points or 2.67 per cent to 79,218.19. A total of 2,446 stocks advanced, while 1,475 declined and 120 remained unchanged on the BSE. The NSE Nifty soared 557.35 points or 2.39 per cent to 23,907.25.

All the 30 Sensex firms ended in the green.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark zoomed 1,536.8 points or 1.98 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 374.55 points or 1.59 per cent.

"The market witnessed a significant broad-based rally, from the oversold territory, predominantly led by large-cap stocks, as their valuations appeared appealing with expectations of improvement in corporate earnings in the second half of the fiscal year.

Hectic buying in blue chip counters like Reliance Industries, IT and tech shares also fuelled the rally in equities *PHOTO: X*

"Positive momentum was also observed in global markets due to a modest decline in Japan's October inflation and 39 trillion yen stimulus package. Moderation in global and domestic political drama provided a relief to the domestic market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan, ITC, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finance were the biggest gainers.

Buying emerged at lower levels in blue-chip stocks, causing several index heavy-weights, including Reliance to gain significantly, Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Hectic buying in blue chip counters like Reliance Industries, IT and tech shares also fuelled the rally in equities.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.26 per cent, and smallcap index climbed 0.90 per cent. *—PTI*

The company has signed a joint venture with NREDCAP to set up renewable energy projects worth Rs 2,00,000 crore in Andhra *PHOTO: xxxx*

NTPC arm bags ₹2L cr RE project in Andhra

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

- The collaboration will focus on developing 25 GW solar/wind, 10 GW pumped storage projects (PSPs) and 0.5 MMTPA green hydrogen, Naidu said.

NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) has signed an agreement with New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP) to set up renewable energy projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said.

The renewable energy arm of power giant NTPC recently launched its Rs 10,000 crore Initial Public Offering with a price band of Rs 102–108 per share.

The company has signed a joint venture with NREDCAP to set up renewable energy projects worth Rs 2,00,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh, Naidu said in a post on X on Thursday.

The collaboration will focus on developing 25 GW solar/wind, 10 GW pumped storage projects (PSPs) and 0.5 MMTPA green hydrogen, Naidu said. *—PTI*

FOUR FOLD JUMP IN ASSETS UNDER SILVER ETFS

KOLKATA, 22 NOV

Silver ETFs have emerged as a popular investment avenue, with their Assets Under Management (AUM) witnessing a remarkable four-fold growth in the past year, touching Rs 12,331 crore in October 2024, up from Rs 2,844.76 crore in October last year.

The surge coincides with rising investor interest in silver as a hedge against domestic inflationary pressures and geopolitical uncertainties, ICRA Analytics said.

Silver ETFs, launched in 2022, have gained traction among retail investors due to their accessibility and transparency, according to ICRA Analytics. The total number of folios under Silver ETFs rose by 215 per cent to 4.47 lakh in October 2024, compared to 1.42 lakh a year ago.

Net inflows grew 24 per cent year-on-year to Rs 643.10 crore during the same period, the note said. Ashwini Kumar, Senior Vice President and Head of Market Data at ICRA Analytics, highlighted that the number of silver ETFs in the market increased from 8 in April 2023 to 12 in August 2024. "Silver ETFs are preferred over physical silver due to easier storage, better liquidity, and lower costs associated with GST on physical silver purchases," he said. *—PTI*

NCLAT limits insolvency against Raheja project

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

In a relief to Raheja Developers, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has confined the insolvency proceedings against the realty firm to only one of its projects – Raheja Shilas.

However, it has directed Raheja Developers to provide details regarding other incomplete projects and the status of all ongoing projects, enabling appropriate orders to be passed.

A three-member bench of NCLAT, led by Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan, directed the Interim Resolution Professional to collate the claims related to the project and submit the status report.

"We are of the view that, for the time being, as was prayed by the Applicant/Respondent herein, the insolvency may convene to one Project, namely 'Raheja Shilas (Low Rise)," said NCLAT in its interim order passed on Thursday.

The NCLAT direction came

PHOTO: PTI

over a petition filed by Navin Raheja, chairman and managing director of the suspended board of the realty firm, challenging an order from National Company Law Tribunal (NLCT) directing to initiate Corporate Insolvency Resolution Proceedings against it.

The direction came following the request from the realty firm to limit the insolvency only to Raheja Shilas.

Flat owners, who submitted the plea on which insolvency was initiated against Raheja Developers, had requested the NLCT to commence the insolvency with regard to the project to which they were concerned. *—PTI*

Govt backing 28 ideas to stabilise tomato prices

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

To address sharp volatility in retail prices of tomatoes, the government has selected and funded 28 innovative ideas, including making wine from tomato, under a hackathon for improving supply chain as well as processing levels, and it will now facilitate these startups to scale up their business.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare on Friday said Tomato Grand Challenge (TGC) hackathon was launched in June last year to invite innovative ideas at various levels of the tomato value chain to ensure its availability to consumers at affordable prices and help tomato farmers get value for the produce.

Tomato Grand Challenge hackathon was launched in June last year *PHOTO: X*

The TGC was formulated by the Department of Consumer Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Education (Innovation Cell). "There is a high volatility in tomato prices. Rates increase sharply because of excessive rains, heat spells and pest attacks," Khare said, adding that there are at least 2-3 occasions in a year of sudden price hike as much as 100 per cent. She pointed out that rates sometime fall drastically, affecting farmers' income.

Khare stressed that there is a need to strengthen supply chain, reduce pre as well as post-harvest losses and boost processing level to bring stability in prices for the benefit of both consumers and farmers. *—PTI*

Forex reserves plunge $17.76B

MUMBAI, 22 NOV

India's forex reserves dropped by USD 17.761B to USD 657.892B for the week ended 15 November, the RBI said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week ended 8 November, the overall reserves dropped by USD 6.477B to USD 675.653B.

The kitty, which had hit an all-time high of USD 704.885B in end-September, has been declining for multiple weeks now, at a time when the rupee has also been under pressure.

For the week ended 15 November, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 15.548B to USD 569.835B, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves decreased by USD 2.068B to USD 65.746B during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 94M to USD 18.064B, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was also down by USD 51M to USD 4.247B in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed. *—PTI*

POOR AFTER-SALES SERVICE

Ola Electric cuts 500 jobs across verticals

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

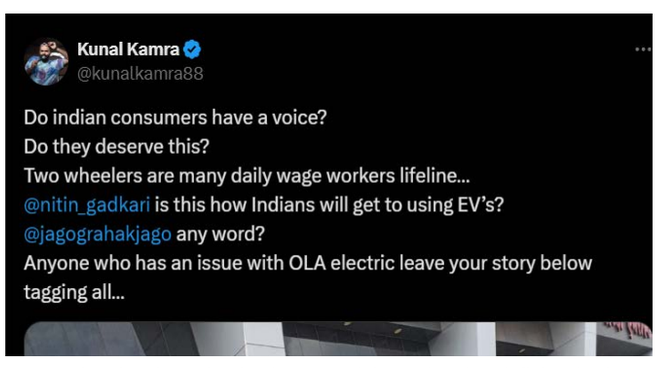
Ola Electric Mobility is cutting 500 jobs across verticals and levels as part of a restructuring exercise, revealed people aware of the development.

The company, which has come under the scanner for its poor after-sales service recently, had started the job cut in the September quarter.

"It has been going on for some time now, starting around July. It has been a gradual process of removing redundant roles across verticals and levels," said a source. The exercise is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Ola Electric is looking to optimise workforce with an aim to improving margins and enhance profitability, the person added.

Earlier this month, Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) had ordered a detailed probe into complaints related to alleged "deficiencies" in services and electric two-wheelers manufactured by Ola Electric. *—PTI*


Kunal Kamra
@kunalkamra88
Do indian consumers have a voice?
Do they deserve this?
Two wheelers are many daily wage workers lifeline...
@nitin_gadkari is this how Indians will get to using EV's?
@jagograhakjago any word?
Anyone who has an issue with OLA electric leave your story below tagging all...

CCPA ordered an investigation into complaints related to deficiencies in services after comedian Kunal Kamra highlighted the issue *PHOTO: X*

PVR INOX to add 100 screens in 2025

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

PHOTO: X

Cinema exhibitor PVR INOX Ltd plans to add around 100 screens next year entailing an investment of around Rs 200 crore, its Executive Director Sanjeev Kumar Bijli said on Friday.

The company, which launched an AI-powered WhatsApp chatbot, Movie Jockey (MJ), for movie discovery and booking experience, plans to add 100 screens every year going forward.

"This year so far we opened about 70 odd screens and closed about 45-50 screens. We will be adding about 40 more screens this year and we will be closing down another 10-15 screens," Bijli said. The idea was to close down about 75 screens this year and add about 120, he said, adding, "so we are on track". *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

CA to honour late Phillip Hughes in Adelaide

PERTH, 22 NOV

Cricket Australia has planned a series of initiatives to mark the 10th anniversary of the tragic death of Phillip Hughes including a tribute before the start of the second Test between India and Australia at the Adelaide Oval scheduled from 6-10 December. Hughes, however, could not recover from the blow and died on 27 November. The left-hander was viewed as one of the promising Australian cricketers as the team went through a transitional phase. "We understand this will be a time of reflection for the many people who knew and admired Phillip Hughes," Cricket Australia (CA) CEO Nick Hockley said on Friday.—*PTI*

Indian team leaves for Men's Junior Asia Cup in Muscat

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

The Indian junior men's hockey team embarked from Bengaluru on Friday for their Men's Junior Asia Cup 2024 campaign, in Muscat, Oman from November 26 to December 4. India has won the tournament for a record four times including in 2023, 2015, 2008, and 2004. They beat nemesis Pakistan 2-1 in the final last year to lift the title. With 10 teams participating in the event this time, India has been placed in Pool A with Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand. While the remaining five teams in Pool B are Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Oman, and China.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Hamilton paces both F1 practices on opening day

LAS VEGAS, 22 NOV

Seven-time Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton paced both of Thursday night's practices at the Las Vegas Grand Prix just two weeks after one of the worst races of his career. The Mercedes driver was despondent over his performance in Brazil when he intimated after the race he wasn't even sure he wanted to finish the final three races of the season. Hamilton is moving to Ferrari at the end of the season. "I didn't want to come back," Hamilton said in Las Vegas of his Brazil performance, where he struggled with the handling of his car, called it "undrivable" and "the bumpiest ride ever" after finishing 10th.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Global has pushed Andretti into a smaller role

LAS VEGAS, 22 NOV

A restructuring at Andretti Global has pushed Michael Andretti into a smaller role, substantially increasing his organization's chances of landing a Formula 1 team. So much so that F1 and Formula One Management could decide to grant the General Motors-backed entry a spot as the 11th team on the grid in the coming weeks. Dan Towriss, now the majority owner of the Andretti organization, was at the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Thursday scoping his chances of entering the top motorsports series in the world.—*PTI*

BGT Day 1: Bumrah leads India's bowling comeback

Australia 67/7 at stumps in reply to India's 150

PERTH, 22 NOV

Skipper Jasprit Bumrah made amends for his debatable toss call to bat first with a mesmerizing opening spell that left Australia scurrying for cover at 67 for 7 and helped India make an emphatic comeback after a flop show with the bat on the opening day of the first Test here.

Australia suffered a stunning batting collapse as they managed 67 for 7 at stumps in reply to India's 150 in the first innings on Day 1 of the first Test here on Friday.

India, who were all out for 150 from 49.4 overs at the stroke of tea, grabbed seven Australian wickets in 27 overs in the final session of the day.

India's captain Jasprit Bumrah, right, and teammates celebrate the wicket of Australia's captain Pat Cummins on the first day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth, Australia, Friday PHOTO: PTI

The match, which was billed as a battle between two out-of-form batting units, lived up to the prediction at least on the first day that witnessed the fall of as many as 17 wickets.

The stand-in India skipper, much to everyone's surprise, opted to bat on a track with a liberal grass cover which generated appreciable seam movement and midriff high bounce. It was debutant Nitish Reddy's gutsy 41 and Rishabh Pant's 37, including an unbelievable sixer, that got India to 150 in 49.4 overs with Josh Hazlewood (4/29), Mitchell Starc (2/14 in 11 overs), Pat Cummins (2/67 in 15.4 overs) and Mitchell Marsh (2/12 in 5 overs) sharing the spoils. On the driver's seat when they came out to reply, Australia had no answer to Bumrah's (4/17 in 10 overs) quality that was on display. Defending a low first-innings total cannot be a one-man show and Mohammed Siraj (2/17 in 9 overs) and debutant Harshit Rana (1/33 in 8 overs) stepped up to support their skipper. The lengths they hit were immaculate, around five meters from the stumps and on the off-stump channel. Debutant Nathan McSweeney (10) got a nip-backer and DRS ruled his leg before. Usman Khawaja (8) just froze in his crease once Bumrah decided to square him up by coming round the wicket. Virat Kohli, who had earlier dropped Marnus Labuschagne (2 off 52 balls), didn't make any mistake on this one.

Australia 67 for 7 (Carey 19*, Bumrah 4-17, Siraj 2-17) trail India 150 (Reddy 41, Pant 37, Hazlewood 4-29, Marsh 2-12, Starc 2-14) by 83 runs. —*PTI*

Former players question third umpire's decision

India batter KL Rahul's contentious caught-behind dismissal in the opening Test against Australia kicked up a controversy with former players from both countries questioning the third umpire's decision to overturn the on-field official's not-out call. After on-field umpire Richard Kettleborough ruled in Rahul's favor following Australia's appeal, the home team used DRS to challenge the decision. Third umpire Richard Illingworth overturned the call despite not having the benefit of a split-screen view which would have given him a clearer picture of whether the Mitchell Starc delivery grazed the bat or the snicko responded to a hit on the pads. All this unfolded 10 minutes before lunch and India ended the session at 51 for 4. Rahul, who made 26 off 74 balls, indicated that his bat hit the pad at the same time when the ball went past the edge. I've got a spike when the ball passed his outside edge.

KL Rahul

CHINA MASTERS

Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty during their second-round match at the China Masters tournament(Inset Sen) PHOTO: X/BAIMEDIA

Satwik-Chirag enter semifinals, Lakshya loses

SHENZHEN, 22 NOV

Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty produced a solid show to outwit second seeds Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen of Denmark to progress to the semifinals of the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament here on Friday.

Playing their first tournament since the Paris Olympics, Satwik and Chirag, who had reached the final in the last edition, registered a 21-16 21-19 win over the World No. 2 pair in 47 minutes.

The Asian Games gold medallists will face either eighth seeds Japanese Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi or Korea's Jin Yong and Seo Seung Jae in the last four clashes.

In men's singles, Lakshya Sen suffered an 18-21 15-21 loss in 53 minutes against third seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark in the quarterfinals to bow out of the competition.

In the opening game, Satwik and Chirag looked in good touch as they were up 11-8 at the break, which they extended to 16-10 with a flurry of fast-paced angled returns that dominated the rallies.

Satwik and Chirag kept a firm grip on the rallies to maintain the lead, grabbing six game points.

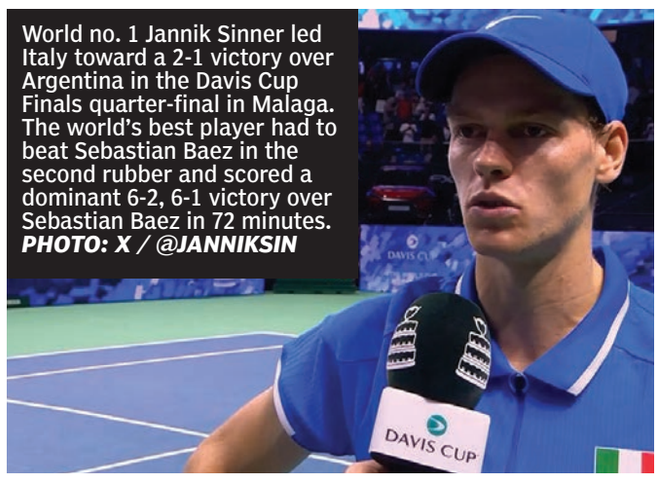
A massive smash from Rasmussen and a net error from Chirag delayed the inevitable before the former sprayed one wide to hand the opening game to the Indians.

The second game was more competitive as the Danes dominated the flat exchanges to move to 7-5 after the initial duel.

Satwik was called for a service fault at 8-8 but the Indians managed to grab an 11-10 lead at the interval.Following a tight battle, Satwik-Chirag moved to 16-15 before the rivals inched to 17-16.

However, Astrup smashed into the net again to give a 19-18 lead to the Indians. A well-placed push from Chirag at the backline put them one point away and Satwik closed it with a smash."

The last two matches, we got back our rhythm. Against Chinese Taipei (last match), it was dicey; we didn't get our rhythm, but slowly and steadily, we got our rhythm back. Today, we were at our level," Chirag said. —*PTI*



World no. 1 Jannik Sinner led Italy toward a 2-1 victory over Argentina in the Davis Cup Finals quarter-final in Malaga. The world's best player had to beat Sebastian Baez in the second rubber and scored a dominant 6-2, 6-1 victory over Sebastian Baez in 72 minutes. PHOTO: X / @JANNIKSIN

Dev Javia enters semifinals of ITF Kalaburagi Open

KALABURAGI, 22 NOV

Seventh-seeded Indian Dev Javia advanced to the semifinals of the ITF Kalaburagi Open after his opponent Sidharth Rawat retired on medical grounds here on Friday.

Javia was leading 1-0 in the first set of their quarterfinal match when Rawat called for medical attention after feeling dizzy and subsequently, he retired from the match.

Javia will face top-seeded Khumoyun Sultanov in the last four matches on Saturday. Sultanov of Uzbekistan outclassed Maxim Zhukov of Russia 6-2, 6-3.

Earlier, American sixth seed Nick Chappell ended the run of fourth-seeded Indian Karan Singh with a 7-5, 6-2 victory.

It was payback time for Chappell as he had suffered a first-round defeat at the hands of Karan in Mumbai last week.

Chappell will meet second-seed Russian Bogdan Bobrov, a 7-5, 6-3 winner over fifth-seeded Aryan Shah, in the semifinals.

Dev Javia PHOTO: PTI

Chappell returned later to make the doubles final. He and his partner Nitin Kumar Sinha defeated the Indian duo of Rishab Agarwal and Kabir Hans 6-2, 6-3.

The Indo-American combine will take on top-seeded Egor Agafonov and Bobrov in the title clash on Saturday. The Russians overcame India's Vishnu Vardhan and Siddhant Banthia 2-6, 6-3, 11-9.

Results (Indians unless mentioned): Singles (Quarterfinals): 6-Nick Chappell (USA) beat 4-Karan Singh 7-5, 6-2; 7-Dev Javia beat Sidharth Rawat 1-0. —*PTI*

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy gets IPL star boost

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The Presence of a few frontline stars like Hardik Pandya, and Mohammed Shami and its co-existence with the IPL mega auction has given the latest edition of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, beginning across venues from Saturday, a meaty context.

But interestingly, the players are not sewn by a common auction thread in the country's premier domestic T20 tournament.

Pandya need not worry about impressing the IPL scouts after finding a place in Mumbai Indians' retention list ahead of the auction on 23 and 24 November in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The all-rounder's appearance in Baroda's jersey is more in line with the BCCI's policy of leading cricketers mandatorily appearing in domestic tournaments.

So, he will aim to keep in touch with the game and possibly help Baroda to a rare title victory. But Shami's outing for Bengal is multi-dimensional. —*PTI*

IPL 2025

BCCI shares schedule for next 3 seasons with franchises

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Next year's Indian Premier League will be held from 14 March to 25 May, the BCCI has told the IPL franchises while also setting aside similar widows for the event's 2026 and 2027 editions in an uncharacteristically elaborate plan.

The BCCI has also decided to include injury-prone England pacer Jofra Archer, Indian-born American pacer Saurabh Netravalkar, and uncapped Mumbai-wicketkeeper-batter Hardik Tamore in the two-day mega players' auction to be held in Jeddah from Sunday.

In its communication to the franchises, the Board has stated that the dates for the next three seasons are being shared at once to "assist the franchises in planning for the players' auction."

The 2026 edition of the tournament will start on 15 March and the grand finale has been scheduled for 31 May.

The 2027 edition will once again start on March 14 with the final on 30 May. All three finals will be held on Sundays.

The BCCI had plans to increase the number of matches in the IPL to ensure that it runs for 10 and half weeks and looking at the windows set aside, it looks imminent that the league's game count will increase.

Archer did not feature in the IPL this year and his run in the 2023 edition was cut short by an elbow injury.

Netravalkar was one of the breakout stars of the T20 World Cup in the USA earlier this year with impressive performances that were crucial to his side advancing to the Super 8s.

The former India Under-19 player, who also turned up for Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy, migrated to the USA to pursue computer engineering and is currently employed with Oracle.

His omission from the pruned auction list at the expense of another India-turned-US player Unmukt Chand had raised eyebrows as the latter was not a part of the American team in the T20 World Cup. —*PTI*

Jasmine clinches 15th and final leg of Hero WPGT

HYDERABAD, 22 NOV

Jasmine Shekar produced the only bogey-free round on the final day of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour while scoring a 4-under 68 to grab her second title of the year here on Friday.

Earlier, she had won the 13th Leg of the event, also becoming the fourth player to win more than once in 2024.

Jasmine parred the entire front nine but then trailed Amandeep Drall at the turn.

Jasmine then produced a super finish with four birdies in a row from the 14th to the 17th and parred the 18th which eventually gave her a convincing four-shot win.

Amandeep after two early bogeys managed to edge ahead with three birdies on the front nine. But a double bogey on the Par-5 14th proved costly and despite a birdie on the 16th, she could not match Jasmine's run of four birdies on the back nine.

Amandeep (72) finished at 4-under 212 in sole second place.

Jasmine, who shared the 36-hole lead with the experienced Amandeep, played very steady and parred her first 13 holes, though she missed a few birdie chances.

Meanwhile, Hitaashee Bakshi with two birdies on the front joined Jasmine. —*PTI*

TRANSACTION RULES

Premier League clubs approve changes

LONDON, 22 NOV

Premier League clubs have voted to approve the changes to the league's associated party transactions (APT) at a meeting held in Central London, where representatives of all 20 teams were present, on Friday.

The proposed changes came into play after an independent tribunal found some aspects of the APT rules to be unlawful following Manchester City's lawsuit.

"At a Premier League Shareholders' meeting today, clubs approved changes to the League's Associated Party Transaction (APT) rules. The amendments to the rules address the findings of an Arbitration Tribunal following a legal challenge by Manchester City to the APT system earlier this year.

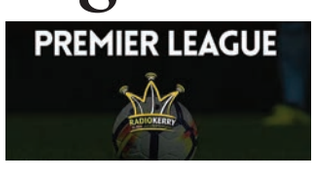


PHOTO: @PREMIERLEAGUE

"The Premier League has conducted a detailed consultation with clubs - informed by multiple opinions from expert, independent Leading Counsel - to draft rule changes that address amendments required to the system," read the statement released by the Premier League.

Manchester City, Aston Villa, Newcastle United and Nottingham Forest were the only clubs to vote against the proposed changes as reported by The Athletic. According to the report, the PL was desperate to bring in the new amendments as soon as possible as it could have resulted in damages from other clubs trying to secure associated party deals during this time.

"This relates to integrating the assessment of Shareholder loans, the removal of some of the amendments made to APT rules earlier this year, and changes to the process by which relevant information from the League's 'databank' is shared with a club's advisors. —*PTI*

Pep signs 2 year contract

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has signed a two-year contract extension that will keep him at the club until 2027, the Premier League champion said on Thursday.Spaniard Guardiola's decision means he will spend more than a decade at the club he joined in 2016 which has led to a dazzling array of silverware, including six Premier League titles and one Champions League crown.

Germany, Netherlands draw as NL group stage ends

LONDON, 22 NOV

PHOTO: X

Germany rounded off their Nations League group stage campaign with a 1-1 draw in Hungary after a Dominik Szoboszlai penalty in the 99th minute rescued a point for the hosts, while the Netherlands were held to the same scoreline by Bosnia and Hercegovina.

There was little to play for in Group A3 going into the final day. The Germans had already wrapped up the top spot. The Dutch were secure in second and Hungary sat four points ahead of the already-relegated Bosnia. "With a win, we would've gone into the break with a nicer feeling but we can still be very satisfied about what we achieved in 2024 and can kick things off again in March," said German midfielder Robert Andrich.

In Group B4, a 4-1 victory for Wales against Iceland ensured automatic promotion to the top division at the expense of Turkey, who went down 3-1 in Montenegro.

Czech Republic booked the top spot in Group B1 with a 2-1 win over Georgia. Ukraine leapfrogged the Georgians into second place by downing Albania. —*PTI*